

GREEN'S WINDMILL TRUST

Newsletter

Issue 26 Winter 2020



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

There's been a lot happening at the Mill . . .

Busy Half Term

Staff and volunteers were kept on their toes during the recent half term with over 1,400 people visiting. The two baking workshops - cheese straws and bread baking - were oversubscribed (90 children per activity!), while two free science days from Cool Science and The British Society for the History of Mathematics proved extremely popular. We look forward to more of the same over Easter



Illumination a Big Hit

Green's Windmill Trust again took part in February's Light Night, Nottingham's famous night of eclectic and electric light installations. With the mill open to visitors until 8.30 pm and lit up by coloured filters, hundreds of people came to catch a glimpse of Nottingham City at night and to gaze in awe as the giant sails turned, illuminated in multicolours. The science centre too was lit up in multicolour, giving it a real zany look loved by the children.

Nottinghamshire Freemasons

We're delighted to receive a £1,000 donation from the Nottinghamshire

Freemasons. Here's their committee members Brian and Roger in the windmill presenting Green's Windmill Trust Chairman Tom and Heritage Officer Jamie with a giant cheque. The donation will enhance the educational visits for the benefit of visiting schools. Green's Windmill Trust would like to say a huge thanks to Nottinghamshire Freemasons for their generosity.



Holocaust Memorial Day

In a moving ceremony candles were lit at Green's Windmill on 27th January to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. A candle was lit to remember each group targeted during the Holocaust and readings provided a timely reminder, if ever one was needed, that ethnic cleansing must be stamped out as it's still happening today. Afterwards attendees reflected on the ceremony over tea and coffee provided by NCBI Nottingham who, with support from Green's Windmill Trust, ran the event. If you would like to aid NCBI Nottingham in their work you can contact them on 0115 958 2842 or ncbinotts@ncbi.org.uk



Carols in the Millyard

On the 14th December our annual Carols in the Millyard event brought Christmas cheer to the windmill. The wind and icy rain of 2018 was swapped for a cold but pleasant afternoon. Over 750 people were in attendance and over £1,000 was raised for the Trust – a great Christmas present. Over 200 mince pies and 9 kg of mushy peas were consumed, while 60 bottles of mulled wine were drunk. Merriness indeed. The Nottingham Ukulele Orchestra once again entertained us with songs and tunes and the Salvation Army brass band led us in singing some rousing carols.

The 2020 event will take place on 12th December, get it in your diary.

Trainee Passes Another Test

Congratulations to trainee miller Leigh who recently passed his first ever First Aid course. "You're in safe hands now" quipped Leigh as he posed with his certificate.



Renewal of Stonenut Cogs goes Transatlantic



Seven new teeth ready to be inserted into the stone nut

During autumn 2019 one of the original wooden stone nut teeth from the 1980s restoration disintegrated, throwing the stonenut out of gear while in operation and damaging several more. This is quite normal as they are designed to be expendable and replaceable. In a happy coincidence, a skilled woodworker was visiting from America, and kindly offered to volunteer his services to produce replacements, free of charge. We are very grateful to Bradford Vifquain and this is his story.

My wife and I were 'wowed' upon our timely arrival at Green's Windmill on a windy day in late October at the end of our final week touring around parts of the UK, to see the sails of the windmill turning and the millers tending it and setting up components to mill some flour. It was a memorable part of our

trip to see it all clicking and clacking and humming around and around. But, by chance, some of the original 30-year old wooden teeth that are set into the 'stone nut' that drives the shaft to turn the millstones broke and splintered out thus putting a break in the show. Even with this stopping of the dynamism of the mill the miller's friendly explanations of the mill, ongoing coaxing of the parts and attentive nature to share the experience with interested visitors and the sheer intrigue of this antique of history still fulfilling its purpose to mill flour and show us all of another time got me interested in a 'what if situation'. What if I could help? Prior to leaving, during this visit I volunteered my contact information and the possibility of fabricating new wooden gear teeth; thus a possibility of aiding the ongoing running of these aged components and the shared experience of this heritage.



Brad Vifquain magnet fishing in a canal on his UK holiday



The new teeth *in situ*

Several emails later with Heritage Officer Jamie to make connections and to gain specifics of these gears resulted in six fabricated 'wooden gear teeth' made out of one of the woods that seemed to complement the original European beech wood qualities that were set into the mill when it was restored 30 years ago. We found that White Oak, Ash and Black Locust were the possibilities here in North America for their hardness, sheer strength, and flexing strength prior to breaking. My wife Laurie got busy scanning the local Craigslist in Minneapolis Minnesota and found someone with pieces of Black Locust that they were willing to give to the cause. Then the step by step process of slicing the trunk sections, sorting, clamping, power sanding, and refining the cuts down to the schematic specs sent to work with, I was finally able to finish by 'nibble whittling' in the dark winter nights with a hunting knife on a holiday ski trip further 'up north' in a cabin near Lake Superior.

The people we met while on our visit to Green's Mill and the subsequent email communications reinforced their willingness and passion to share this heritage of this windmill and appreciating of all who take the time to extend this experience to others, as my wife and I got on the initial visit. Hopefully we can be part of future renditions of component replacements/updates and to continue the 4,000 mile exchange and support to help Green's Windmill Trust to thrive from our side in distant North America.

Brad and Laurie

Challis Chalice Recipient

“We don’t pay our volunteers. Not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless”

During the Green’s Windmill Trust volunteers Christmas party, the prestigious Challis Chalice was presented to the volunteer who had completed the most hours during 2019. The Chalice is awarded in memory of the late Professor Lawrie Challis, who started the campaign to save the windmill in the 1970s, and was for many years Chair of the George Green Memorial Fund. Racking up a mammoth 483.5 hours – a record since the award was established in 2013 – Michael Gathercole was the deserving recipient. Sadly for us Michael left the Trust at the start of the year as he moved onto pastures new – an accountancy course and hopefully an apprenticeship, too. He’s been a real asset to our organisation and will be greatly missed. We’d like to wish him all the best with his future endeavours and say a big thank you for all his support throughout 2019. Cheers, Michael.



Green’s Windmill Trust saw 64 volunteers contribute almost 5,500 hours in 2019, a fantastic effort by one and all. We say it so often but we really couldn’t stay open without them. They’re a splendid bunch of people whose commitment, passion and dedication never wavers, so thanks to every single one of them for their help during 2019, they’re absolute superstars.

If this has inspired you to volunteer with us please request a volunteer application form by emailing info@greensmill.org.uk or phoning the Mill on 0115 915 6878.

Meet the Team – Melvyn Johns

What’s your hometown and country?

Nottingham, England.

What’s your role?

Gardener.

How long have you been involved?

My first day was 20th May 2016.

What attracts you to contributing at Green’s Mill?

I just like volunteering and I like doing jobs as it gets me out the house on a Friday, and I really love it here.

Where did you first hear about Green’s Mill?

I also volunteer at Arkwright Communitate Gardens and the organiser there recommended volunteering here, too.

What’s your favourite memory of the site?

Looking after the lawns.

Which flour is your favourite type, and why?

I prefer white flour as it’s perfect for baking fruit cake – my favourite.

What would we most often find you baking in your kitchen?

I’m not too fussy, as long as it’s not spicy food



Melvyn in the greenhouse with some sweet pea seedlings he has just potted up



A Word from the Miller

Hi all,

it’s been a whirlwind of a winter season and I would like to start by saying thank you to everyone for your help and support throughout some busy times and big events; not to mention the unprecedented amount of wind we’ve had so far this year. Your contributions have allowed me or Leigh to be in the mill on almost every windy day, amounting to approximately 23 wind-powered milling days in just two months – more than half the total of 2019 (40 days). We had four named storms (Ciara, Dennis, Ellen and Jorge), hitting over a four week period, to thank for that. With gusts of up to 57mph buffeting the mill from various directions it has been a time of great milling potential, but also significant risk of damage to the sails, fantail and cap

particularly, and a heap of stress to go with it. Thankfully, between us, all the situations and risks were effectively managed. We planned according to the weather and have remarkably avoided any damage at all. And so it's back to the daily grind for me.

Coming Events

A whole host of events are coming up, kicking off with the Spring Fayre on 21st March.

Spring Fayre	Saturday 21 st March, 1pm-4pm, free entry
Sweet Treats for Mother's Day	Sunday 22 nd March, 10.15am-2.30pm, £4 per child
Mini Pizza Baking	Saturday 4 th April, 10.15am-2.30pm, £5 per child
Easter Biscuit Baking	Thursday 9 th April, 10.15am-2.30pm, £4 per child
Eggciting Easter Egg Hunt	Friday 10 th to Sunday 12 th April, 10am-3pm, £5 per child
Children's Bread Baking	Thursday 16 th April, 10.15am-2.30pm, £4 per child
Scone Baking	Saturday 18 th April, 10.15am-2.30pm, £4 per child
St. George's Day Biscuit Baking & Late Opening	Thursday 23 rd April, 4pm-7pm, £4 per child for the activity, entry to the mill free.
Mini Oaty Bakes	Friday 8 th May, 10.15am-2.30pm, £4 per child
National Mills Weekend	Saturday 9 th to Sunday 10 th May, 10am-4pm, free entry



Green's Windmill Spring Fayre

Saturday 21st March 2020
1PM - 4PM, FREE ENTRY

Join us in the magnificent setting of Green's Windmill for our traditional Spring Fayre.

There will be a varied selection of stalls to browse and home-made pizza to eat, fresh from the pizza oven!

Climb the mill during a tour at 1pm, 2pm or 3pm and witness the breath-taking views across Nottingham - remember to bring the camera!

Free entry, small charges for refreshments & tours.

Green's Mill Sneinton Nottingham NG2 4QB
0115 915 6878

Some Nottinghamshire Windmills

Carlton, Nottingham

In the 19th century Nottingham grew from a small market town to an industrial city. The population expanded rapidly and so there was an increasing demand for flour for the bakeries (including that owned by George Green's father) and for meal for the many horses. So, there were perhaps twenty windmills in and around Nottingham at that time, including thirteen in a row on Forest Road and at least three on Windmill Lane in Sneinton. One stood on a ridge of high ground in Carlton, overlooking the Trent valley.

An advertisement in the Stamford Mercury of 20 October 1809 says

To be sold at auction. A post Wind mill situated near the town of Carlton. The windmill carries two pairs of stones, a dressing machine, and has Simpson's patent for furling and unfurling the sails whilst in motion. Carlton is situated two miles from Nottingham. The whole is in the possession of Mr Smith, the owner.

The reference to 'Simpson's patent' is thought to be a misprint referring to a patent registered on 5 November 1806 by one William Sampson, wheelwright, of Liverpool for an "invention or discovery to be acted upon by the impulse of the wind, in order to work mills, pumps, and other machinery suitable for its application." However, 'Simpson' may be correct as the London Gazette of 23 May 1807 records the dissolution of a partnership between Thomas Simpson and John Bywater of Nottingham whose business used a patent in Bywater's name for a "new and improved method of cloathing and uncloathing the sails of Wind Mills, while in motion." John Bywater then carried on his business in partnership with one Michael Harris. Windmill history can get complicated.

At some later date a tall brick tower windmill was built in Carlton. It is unclear whether this was on the site of the earlier, smaller postmill. Little is known about this mill; it appears to have been derelict by 1910 and it was demolished in 1936.



Carlton Mill 1910 with the Old Mill Stores in front



Carlton Mill, 1924



The mill sometime after 1924.
The Old Mill Stores looking rather the worse for wear, too

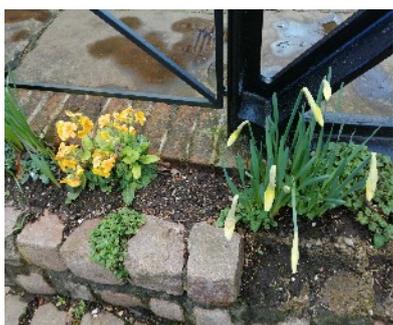
Burgh le Marsh Windmill, Lincolnshire

Windmills are always vulnerable structures, exposed to the uncontrollable forces of the wind. In February Storm Ciara ripped the cap and sails from Dobson's Mill in Burgh le Marsh. The force of the wind apparently broke the wooden beams inserted through the brakewheel to stop the sails from turning and the sails spun out of control until they self-destructed. The adjacent heritage centre was damaged by the falling sails and cap. This is a sad loss as this splendid mill is – was – unusual in being 'lefthanded', turning in the opposite direct to most windmills. It is also the only windmill in the country to have five sails. The mill was built around 1844 and it worked commercially until the 1960s. It was extensively restored with a new cap and sails in 2014. It is owned by Lincolnshire County Council and managed by volunteers, the BLM Heritage Group.



The Hounds of Spring are on Winter's Traces (as the poet has it)

Lots of signs of spring in the millyard and in the Community Garden which is looking very trim and tidy thanks to the garden volunteers who turn out every Friday, rain or shine (mostly rain of late)



Where There`s a Will, There`s Relatives. Or Are There?

Clara Green and All That

Worldly Lawyers

Those lawyers who administer the estates of dead people the worldly wise are noted for their assessment that ‘where there`s a will there`s relatives’. Those are folk who have not been seen or heard of for a very long time who gather from near and far for the funeral, ostensibly to pay their respects but surreptitiously to find out what dosh is about, whether they`ve been left any and, if not, why not? “Fancy leaving it all to cousin X; or friend Y; or some charity looking after a windmill, when it should have come to us”

Not Always So

But sometimes it is different, as in the case of Clara Green.

Clara Green was the youngest child of our mathematician George Green, being only 13 months old when he died in 1840. George had made a will carefully providing for all of them, including Clara. By the time she died in 1919 she had inherited the windmill, the Mill House and all the land attached. The mill had long ceased to function. The Mill House - known then as Belvoir Mount - was mortgaged and rented to tenants whilst she lived in a summerhouse in the grounds.

A few weeks before she died, she became infirm and was committed to the Bagthorpe Workhouse (on the site of what is now the City Hospital). This was a fate that befell many people with no-one to look after them before our present social system was introduced by the Attlee government after World War II.

Clara had made a will 28 years before, leaving her estate to her older sister Elizabeth who had in fact died long before Clara.

This being so - and no-one at the workhouse or locally knowing anything about Elizabeth or any of Clara`s family – it was concluded that there was no-one to inherit either under the terms of the will or in accordance with the rules that apply if there is no-one by the will, which lawyers term ‘intestacy’.

As it happens, there was a nephew alive. Her eldest sister Jane and her husband Fred Moth had a son George who was alive when Clara died. He had six children by two wives, the descendants of some of whom are alive today and visit us from time to time.

Consequences: Mill Confiscated

The consequence of this was that there being no apparent relevant relatives the mill, Mill House and the grounds were confiscated to the Crown to pay off the National Debt In accordance with what lawyers term ‘bona vacantia’, an ancient legal principle whereby any assets not belonging to anyone belong to the Crown.

The mill and grounds were sold to a local solicitor Oliver Hind who, after repairing it, let it to various tenants though not as a mill which had not worked for half a century. The last tenants were H Gell & Co, manufacturers of boot and furniture polish who had a disastrous fire in 1947 after which the mill remained a derelict shell.



The Grave of Clara Green in the Forest Road (Rock) Cemetery

Consequences: Mill Nearly Lost

One consequence of the Government sale of the mill which could not have been predicted was that, not long before the restoration began, the trustees of Oliver Hind applied for planning permission to build houses on the site. The mill was saved by the decision of an inspector appointed by the Government after hearing objections from the City Council, Nottingham Civic Society, Sneinton Environmental Society and others.

Consequences: Mill House Separated

The Mill House was sold separately to the mill and grounds and it has fared better having been occupied by a succession of owner-occupiers who have cherished it. Their co-operation as good neighbours is essential to the smooth running of the mill, Science Centre and Community Garden.

Consequences; Papers Burned

Another doleful consequence of the government sale was the loss of all George Green's personal papers. Thus, we are ignorant of his mode of working, the sources of his inspiration except as described in his works and of insights into his social and family life.

Were there any? We know from a Green scholar Professor Granger that there were some in 1907 when he visited Clara to ask if he could work with them. As she refused, we do not know what `they` were. We also know that "two neighbours burnt all the rubbish from the summer house after her death" as reported in 1937 by the then vicar of St Stephen's Church. He had no doubt that this included George Green's papers. Further, in 1972 a Samuel Simkins, then elderly local resident, reported to a Mrs Wilkins-Jones that he had burned all the papers as part of the sale clearance.

Oh! What might have been in those skips, burned at that summerhouse?

Lessons To Be Learned

All this illustrates that if you have any money, property or papers it is best to:

- make a will
- keep it up to date (making sure that there is somewhere that you have chosen for it all to go)
- include provision for proper archiving of any papers of interest to the public.

Ostensible and Surreptitious Motives for this Narrative

Like the relatives at the funeral I have both ostensible and surreptitious motives for this narrative. The ostensible one is to explain the consequences of the failure of Clara's will and the lessons to be learned. The surreptitious one is to get you in the mood to leave in your will some dosh, however small, to Green's Windmill Trust to help finance the present running of the Mill and to secure its long-term future. We know already that some supporters have done so and we have recently received a legacy of £10,000 from another.

In doing so please remember that donations to charities such as us are not subject to Inheritance Tax, so you might prefer some of your legacy to come to Green's Mill rather than to the government.

This is, of course, looking to the long-term as we do wish you all long and happy lives.

Tom Huggon,
Chair of Trustees
Green's Windmill Trust

New Millstones

One of the many problems with running a working windmill is finding the millstones; they aren't being made any more. And as more mills are restored to working order, more are needed. This is compounded by the fact that they don't last for ever. It takes quite a long time but eventually they do wear out; visit an old windmill or watermill and you'll often find old stones used in paths or rockeries.



When Green's Mill was being restored back in the early 1980s we did obtain a pair of stones through an anonymous donation - very anonymous as they just appeared overnight at the Mill.

We have just taken delivery of a pair of stones, not anonymously but through the generosity of the **Friends of Nottingham Museums**. With their donation we were able to purchase the stones and **AKA Crane Hire** of Nottingham kindly collected them from Shropshire for us for just the cost of the diesel fuel.

So we should be fit to keep milling for many years yet.



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The Mill and Centre are open Wednesday to Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm
Admission is free

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