



Issue 27 Spring 2020

**The Windmill - We Never Close**

That was the famous motto of a rather different windmill (younger readers might like to ask a grown-up about that) and one that applies to us now. As you shall see, although we have had to suspend normal operations, the mill has been hard at work. These interesting times have brought many challenges to all concerned with Green's Mill. Not all of it has been bad news, especially as the trustees, staff and volunteers have risen to the challenge of ensuring we continue to serve our visitors, supporters and the community. In fact, despite the closure we have all been rather busy, working to ensure that once some semblance of normality returns we will once more be able to welcome visitors as we have done these many years past.

Where Can I Buy Some Flour? Well . . .

Ever since the Covid-19 pandemic took hold the demand for our flour has soared; it seems we have become a nation of home bakers again. With a windmill on their doorstep the good folk of Nottingham have been ordering flour from us in their

droves. By week 4 flour orders (206) had already surpassed the total orders taken in the whole of 2019. By week 10 flour orders (610) were over three-fold what they had been the previous year. A remarkable 4 tonnes of flour had been ordered over that period. To put that into perspective, the average amount milled at Green's Windmill over an entire year is about 10 tonnes. The Science Centre has even been requisitioned for storing our grain as there is not enough room in the mill itself.



Sacks of grain stacked up in the Science Centre



Flour orders bagged up, labelled and awaiting their customers

The staff have been focusing solely on flour production as the site has been closed for general visits. They have been working all hours to fulfil orders, one day even running the mill for 14 hours to take advantage of a good wind. The spring and summer are normally our busiest period with events such as the Spring Fair and family activities at Easter being vital sources of income for us. So the additional income from flour sales goes some way to compensate. And not since the 1800s have the people of Nottingham relied so much on their local windmill for flour. George Green would be proud.

Flour is available only available by order; please do so by calling the windmill on 0115 915 6878. Your order will then be available for collection on Friday or Saturday.

As to reopening, Green's Windmill Trust will take note of government guidance, the policies of the other Nottingham City Museums and the views of the staff and trustees as to when it is safe to do so. At the time of writing this likely to be July at the earliest. Please keep an eye on our social media channels for all the latest updates.

Spider Plants

Our heritage officer Jamie has kindly donated 90 baby *Chlorophytum comosum*, more commonly known as spider plants, to Green's Windmill, to raise funds for the Community Garden before its plants and produce come on later in the year. As owners of spider plants will attest, they are one of the easiest house plants to grow and are champion air cleansers. All the spiders are home-grown and potted in peat-free compost. These, and often other plants from the Community Garden, are available to collect from the mill yard every Friday and Saturday for a suggested donation of £1 each.



Spiderman



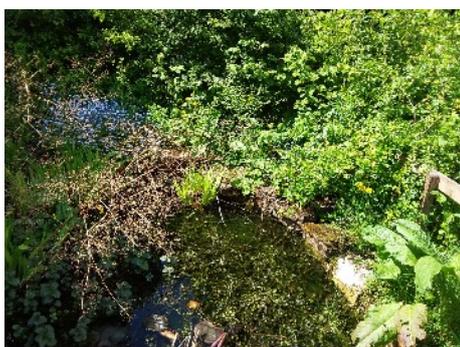
Mill Pays Tribute to Key Workers

We've been showing our appreciation for all the amazing NHS staff, carers and key workers by lighting up the windmill blue and green as part of the [#clapforourcarers](#) movement. The mill has been lit up every night since the Covid-19 pandemic hit the UK.

Community Garden

Work in the garden has continued thanks

to a core team of volunteers working shifts every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday (to maintain social distancing). The volunteers are doing a splendid job ensuring plants and produce are being well looked after and that the garden is being kept in a manageable state ready for reopening once we're allowed to do so. We would like to commend Sheila, John, Veronica, Pat and Graham for their continued work and support.



Last year the pond in the garden was coming along nicely with lots of wildlife finding its way there. This year with the remarkable spring weather, it has really taken off. So much so that it has been in need of some TLC. The Canadian pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*), whilst valued as an oxygenator, had run riot and a lot has now been removed to allow room for the other plants and animals. The native species plants around the pond are looking particularly lovely. If you call at the Mill to buy flour, do pop into the garden to have a look.

From the (Trainee) Miller

Hi all, Leigh reporting in this time. Over the last few months all the staff have been rushed off their feet with what's happening. We've produced over 4 tonnes of flour for the good people of Nottingham and it makes me feel like I'm George Green back in the 1800s, although it's been physically tough for us all here, I must admit. We have also been working long hours when we have the wind to ensure we have our white flour available. But I've enjoyed knowing that people are getting their flour and leaving here happy. So, for now I will say take care out there and hope to see you all again very soon.



Meet the Team

John Perry

What's your hometown and country?

Yeovil, Somerset, England.

What's your role?

Volunteer gardener, but I also help out at special events.

How long have you been involved?

At least a couple of years now.

What attracts you to contributing at Green's Mill?

I like the place and the people.

Where did you first hear about Green's Mill?

Through my wife Veronica, who has been a volunteer at the Mill even longer than me.

What's your favourite memory of the site?

Good in August and September when all the fruit and vegetables are being harvested.

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

I enjoy most types of cooking as long as I have a recipe to follow.



Financial News

Closing the Mill and Science Centre has meant a considerable loss of expected income from visitors' donations, school groups and our big events such as the Spring Fair and Easter activities. However, the staff and trustees have continued to look for other sources of funding, and with some success. We hope that this will be sufficient to tide us over until some semblance of normality returns. That said, further donations are always welcome to ensure we can keep the sails turning.

A W Lymn

We were delighted to receive a £600 grant from the well-known local funeral directors A W Lymn. The donation – from their Centenary Fund – has invested in new equipment for the gardeners to enhance the Community Garden for the benefit of our visitors, the local community and visiting schools. Green's Windmill Trust would like to say a huge Thank You to A W Lymn for their generosity.



Nottingham City Council

The City Council have provided a fund to support local businesses in the current difficult situation. We were most pleased to receive a grant of £10,000 from them. This will compensate in some way towards the losses that we are incurring due to having to cancel our public events program.

Historic England

Historic England is an organisation that lists and archives over 400,000 of the most historically and architecturally significant places in England. They have made £2 million available to help protect valuable heritage sites. Despite their focus being on Grade 1* and 2* listed sites (we are short of a star) and the fund being three times over subscribed, we were surprised and delighted to receive £2,061 from the fund.

Donations

We recently contacted our supporters to explain the financial difficulties we are facing and many of you were kind enough to make donations. Thank you for that, every little helps.

You can donate online at

<https://www.justgiving.com/greenswindmilltrust>

Or through payroll at

<https://www.charitablegiving.co.uk/>

And if you shop online then use <https://www.charitablegiving.co.uk/> and the Trust will benefit and it won't cost you a penny

Meet Our New Trustee

Welcome to Ed Breeds who has joined us at Green's Windmill Trust. Ed is no stranger to us as he has been part of the Nottingham Trent University team who have delivered some splendid science activities for visitors to the Mill. We will let Ed introduce himself . . .



I am a lecturer of physics at Nottingham Trent University (NTU), excited to be joining Green's Mill as a charitable trustee.

As a physicist it is my job to try to understand the fundamentals of our natural world, and I believe that science gives us a way to look around and uncover a deeper level of beauty. I also believe it is my job to share this beauty wherever I can, and I like to talk to people of all ages about physics. As a result, you'll often see me at science fairs in and around Nottingham (quite often with a stuffed duck) or arranging talks and events with the Institute of Physics. This was how I first met some of the wonderful people at the Mill.

My scientific interests include magnetic resonance (which underpins medical MRI scanning) and biomimesis (solving complex problems by copying something that already happens in nature). It was while studying for my PhD at the University of Nottingham that I first properly came across George Green's work, and I have been an admirer of his ever since. I was particularly inspired by how he could find complex physics in things so seemingly trivial as waves in a canal system.

Physics and maths should be accessible to all, and the idea that the subjects can be 'too difficult' often comes from avoidable early experiences. If you have ever enjoyed a rainbow, used a smartphone, watched bubbles in a fizzy drink or seen the sails of the windmill turn, YOU are a physicist. To look upon anything in this world and wonder about it is to be a physicist. Easy job, right?

I am particularly interested in reducing some of the societal gaps that exist across physics, trying my best to consciously support diversity and equality in everything that I do. For example, I sit on the subcommittee for a group that have recently introduced the "I am a physicist" Girlguiding badge across Nottinghamshire (and soon nationwide), aimed at reducing the gender gap in physics.

My role at the Mill, as well as offering my enthusiasm to the group, will be to develop the site's links with both Nottingham universities, provide more diverse events at the Mill's events and explore funding opportunities from the scientific community. Having spent over a third of my life studying or teaching at both Nottingham universities (my undergraduate from NTU and my doctorate from UoN), I hope to build a healthy and self-sustaining relationship that supports activity at Green's Mill and its wonderful surrounding community.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the future,

Ed



Photo: courtesy of Mike Beard

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