

# GREEN'S WINDMILL TRUST

# Newsletter



Issue 30 Winter 2020



## Reopening Soon

Following the release of the government's COVID-19 'roadmap out of lockdown' it has been announced that museums should be able to reopen from 17<sup>th</sup> May. As this falls on a Monday, we are working towards reopening the Mill and Science Centre on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

We don't yet know what restrictions will be in place, but they are likely to be similar to last year when we were allowed to open with advance bookings and timed access, at least in the short term. We are looking forward to welcoming visitors again and we will be keeping a close eye on further

government announcements. Follow our social media channels for all the latest information. Meanwhile, the mill shop continues to be open for flour collections and you can visit our millyard and Community Garden during our usual opening hours of Wednesday to Sunday, 10am – 4pm.

## Financial Support

Following on from a grant from the Cultural Recovery Fund for Heritage in September, which provided vital financial support between October and March, we have again been successful in our application to the second round of funding. Covering April to June, the grant will provide support as we work towards reopening. It will also enable us to make improvements to what we can offer visitors, such as a range of outdoor garden workshops (when allowed, watch this space), new and updated interpretation and a 'mesh' wi-fi system to provide an additional service to visitors and groups and make us more appealing as a venue for corporate hire and team building days.



We have also received grants – ranging from £300 to £12,000 – from the ASDA Community Fund; the Pilgrim Trust; the Foyle Foundation and the government's C-19 Business Support Fund. We are grateful to all these donors for helping to keep the Trust in business and the sails turning.



## Covid-19, One Year On

**1,317**

**One thousand, three hundred and seventeen.** That's the number of flour orders we've taken since the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the day we sat down together to discuss the closure of Green's Windmill and Science Centre in light of the growing pandemic. Ironically, the meeting kept getting interrupted by people phoning us wanting to order our flour, there being none in the shops. So we decided then that milling would continue.

Now, a year on, eight times the yearly average number of flour orders have been taken. It's bittersweet, of course; we would rather the virus didn't exist and we were running our usual programme of activities, events, exhibitions and welcoming visitors from around the globe. We never thought we would be

working 16-hour shifts, milling in the dark to take advantage of windy days and being commended as 'Bread Heroes'. It is probably the biggest challenge we have faced since taking over day-to-day operations at the Mill in 2013.

It has made us more resilient, adaptable and stronger. And much more tired. We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who has supported us in this journey over the last year, and for all your kind words which have motivated us to keep going. To mark the milestone, we wrote the figure 1,307 in the millyard using flour sacks and filmed a time-lapse for social media. Do check it out.



Mill running at night, lit up blue

[www.facebook.com/greenswindmill](https://www.facebook.com/greenswindmill)

[Green's Windmill Trust \(@greens\\_windmill\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

## eBay Sale Raises Funds

We held an eBay sale during March in lieu of the usual Spring Fair which could not take place due to COVID-19 restrictions. The annual spring event often attracts in excess of 500 visitors to the windmill and raises maybe £800, vital funds following the quieter winter months. To mitigate the loss of income our kind supporters donated their unwanted wares to us for sale on eBay. All sorts of items went up for auction; a large selection of tools, outdoor adventure gear, even a wooden beer caddy. And following a flurry of last-minute bids a grand total of £835 was raised for our charity. Thanks to everyone who donated items to sell and to all those that placed bids.



The garden team have been working hard over the last few months preparing and planting for the new season. Shoots of leeks, onions, garlic, broad beans and strawberries are showing. In the greenhouse chillies, cucumber, sweet peas and lettuce are coming along nicely. Both the

damson and plum trees are flowering. The flower beds have been tidied up along with the edging and paths have been re-laid.

Work has begun on cleaning up and re-staining the wooden frame of the greenhouse, while a large planter that was restored now features a gorgeous *Phormium* (New Zealand flax) amongst other wonderful plants. Next on the to-do list is to paint the boundary fence. Two new trees will also appear in association with the Nottingham Soroptomists, but we will reveal more about that in the next newsletter.



## The Community Garden



As we reported in a previous newsletter, we have an apple tree in the garden that is a scion (a grafted offshoot) from the famous tree at Woolsthorpe Manor whose falling apple inspired Isaac Newton to determine the law of universal gravitation. Although this tree, a variety called Flower of Kent, bore some lovely apples last year it is rather small and misshapen. However, your treasurer, cunningly also grew one on his allotment as a spare. This has now been transplanted to the garden where it appears to be flourishing.

These trees celebrate the scientific, mathematical connection between the achievements of Isaac Newton and George Green. They were a gift from our friends at Woolsthorpe Manor, a lovely National Trust property a few miles south of Grantham and well worth a visit.



## A Word from Our Miller



Hi all, after the past year of trials and tribulations we are glad to be sprucing up the mill, science centre and our outdoor spaces ready for reopening within the next two months. Demand for flour has tailed off somewhat compared to this time last year, but is still above average compared to pre-pandemic levels. We had a particularly good windy spells during, producing plenty of wholemeal flour specifically for dressing into white flour. As we head into the better weather we have our fingers crossed for some more windy days soon.

We have started cleaning the cap of grease and oil to prevent further dripping down the walls, damage to the brickwork and to improve sanitary conditions. This will involve soaking or drying up the oil and painting over it. Additionally, I spent three days working closely with the millwrights Dorothea Restoration Ltd to conduct a comprehensive condition survey of the mill tower and machinery. This is to allow us to predict and manage upcoming maintenance costs more effectively, as well as being a useful asset

to boost potential fundraising efforts. The windmill is always a high maintenance structure and although the millwrights found a number of things requiring some TLC, over all they reported that the mill is in good condition.

Aside from that, we have repurposed the rarely-used grain delivery door on the ground floor as a viewing hatch whilst we cannot have visitors inside the mill. Now roped off, it will be open every day for people to see inside the ground floor of the mill from a perspective different to that offered by the entrance and fire exit doors.

Andy

## Meet the Team

### Volunteer Frances Danylec

*What's your hometown and country?*

I'm from Yorkshire and Cumbria.

*What's your role?*

I help out in the mill with whatever needs doing – bagging flour, mixing grain, painting doors.

*How long have you been involved?*

Since October 2020.

*What attracted you to contributing at Green's Mill?*

I like doing something that's completely different from my weekday work (I'm an Occupational Therapist at QMC), Green's Mill has a really interesting history and it's an important part of the local community.

*Where did you first hear about Green's Mill?*

I cannot for the life of me remember, but I first moved to Nottingham in 2010, so probably soon after then when I was exploring the area.

*What's your favourite memory of the site?*

Any windy day is great.

*What flour is your favourite type, and why?*

White because I use it the most for baking.

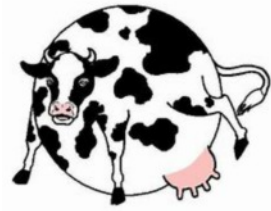
*What would we most often find you baking in your kitchen?*

Giant Yorkshire puddings (of course), salted caramel chocolate brownies and plain scones.



## One for Physicists

A farmer is struggling to make any money on his farm and so he invites his brother, an eminent physicist, to apply some scientific analysis to his problems. The brother, having successfully applied for a research grant, looks at the workings of the farm, inspects the accounts, analyses current trends in farming practice and the changing values of livestock, produce and feed. When the physicist returns, the farmer is eager to read the results of this scientific investigation but the brother says that he will, perforce, need to make a presentation with graphs, slides and the like. He stands up and begins: "Consider a spherical cow of infinite diameter in a vacuum . . ."



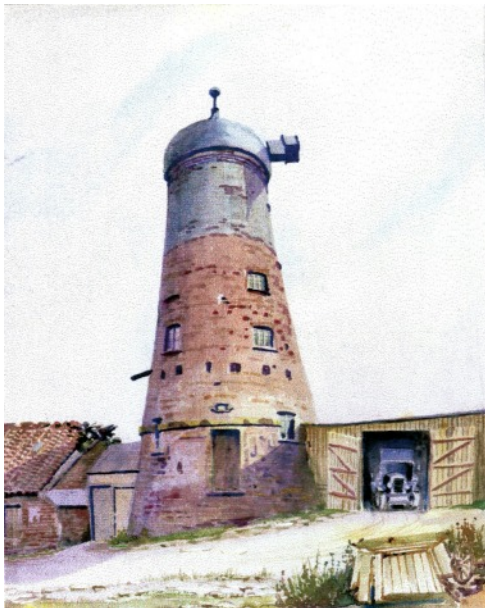
## From the Archives

Although born in Derbyshire in 1888, the artist and musician Karl Wood lived for most of his life in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. In the 1920s he painted a local windmill, known as Roving Molly, at Hemswell. Thereafter became obsessed with painting every windmill in England, travelling from mill to mill by bicycle. His watercolours were simple in execution and he might paint several mills in one day.

The Usher Gallery in Lincoln has a significant collection of Karl Wood's paintings and many of his sketches and pencil drawings are held in the Mills Archive Trust

Here are two paintings of Green's Mill that he made in 1932 when the mill tower was being used by H Gell and Co., manufacturers of furniture and boot polish. The image on the left is quite accurate, showing a wooden garage on the right (where the entrance to the millyard now is) and the remains of the miller's cottage on the left.

The painting on the right is rather odd, with the end wall of the single-storey cottage seemingly much exaggerated in height.



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