GREEN'S WINDMILL TRUST Newsletter

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups

Issue 34 June 2022

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

To mark the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne a number of celebratory events took place at the windmill over the extended bank holiday weekend. Jubilee Biscuit Baking for children kicked things off during the day of 2nd June before the Queen's Beacon on Windmill Park was lit at 9.45pm. Leader of the Council and our very own local councillor David Mellen lit the beacon after a short speech about the importance of community. Musical entertainment was provided by Steve May on the euphonium and Notts Ukulele Club who performed God Save the Queen. Around 350 people attended the event which also included a free children's colouring activity, food from Banquet 1415 and full access to the windmill which looked glorious dressed in bunting, Union flags and festoon lighting.

On Saturday 4th June a music concert, 'Platinum Party at the Mill', saw a variety of artists from the local area perform with an eclectic mix of instruments. Meanwhile, food was served up from the Community Garden pizza oven courtesy of Secret Pizza Notts. Over 300 people were in attendance. Jubilee celebrations then wound up with a free lunch for residents of our local ward on Sunday 5th June. Sandwiches were served with sausage rolls, scones and cupcakes. Despite the terribly wet weather almost 50 people turned out. These four very different events were a wonderful way to mark this most special of occasions and it was great to see so many people in royally high spirits, no doubt enthused by the attendance of Her Majesty.

Volunteers Week 1-7 June

1-7 JUNE VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

National Volunteers Week was again held over the first week in June. With approximately 40 volunteers currently on our books this is our opportunity to say a huge and heartfelt 'thanks' to our team for keeping us open and operating – the mill would barely be able to continue without them. Over the last 12 months they have contributed a whopping 4,700 hours. Their dedication, passion and enthusiasm for our historic site know no bounds and we're very humbled by their continued support. Thank you one and all.

Easter Fun

The Easter holidays are always a busy period and with families wanting to get out and do things again after you-know-what, it was busier than ever. With Easter themed baking events, an egg hunt and a drop-in by Cool Science Pete, the staff and volunteers were kept on their toes. Visitor numbers exceeded 2,000 over the two week period and over £4,500 was raised for the windmill.

Funding

The Green's Windmill Trust fundraising subcommittee continue to raise funds for the windmill with the following grants coming in since the last newsletter;

£2,880 Browne Jacobson LLP, to extend the post of the Community Garden Project Co-ordinator by six months.

£1,500 J N Derbyshire Trust, towards the traineeship of Leigh Evans, our trainee miller.

£650 Nottingham City Council, contribution to the community events celebrating the Jubilee.

£2,120 grant from the Covid Business Recovery scheme

£450 the Marsh Christian Trust

We are, of course, most grateful for these generous contributions as it costs the Trust around £1,300 *per week* to keep the Mill going.

Sneinton Historic Walks Return

Guided walks around historic Sneinton return over the next few months, led by local hero and Chair of Green's Windmill Trust, Tom Huggon. The walks take in St Stephen's Church, Bendigo's statue, the birthplace of William Booth and the heart of the conservation area and provide the opportunity to learn about some of the hidden gems and little known facts about this fascinating district.

The walks last around 1½ hours and cost a minimum donation of £3 per person. For ages 16+. As the walks are limited to 30 people we recommend booking in advance. Please phone the windmill on 0115 915 6878 to reserve your place. Walks take place on Saturday 18th June and Saturday 16th July, both starting at 2pm prompt in the Green's Windmill millyard.

Meet the Team – Denny Plowman

The new Museum Officer at Green's Mill in 1985

What's your hometown and country?
I grew up in Welwyn Garden City where my father worked in the Shredded Wheat factory. Cereals must be in our blood as my son now works in a Weetbix factory in Australia.

What's your role?
I am a trustee of the Green's Windmill Trust and its treasurer

How long have you been involved?
Since 1 January 1985, when I started working for the City Museums to manage the restoration of the windmill and setting up the science centre. Around 11 years ago, a well-earned redundancy from the City Museums coincided with the possibility of the City Council withdrawing support for the mill. Along with our chair Tom Huggon and some others who had the interest of the mill at heart, we formed what is now the Trust to take over the management of the mill in partnership with the City Council.

What attracts you to contributing at Green's Mill?
What's not to love? George Green and his windmill is a terrific and unique story with its mix of history, science, community and heritage.

Where did you first hear about Green's Mill?
Although I long knew of the existence of the windmill in Sneinton, I had no idea of its significance until the job came up of managing it.

What's your favourite memory?
After playing with the windmill for 35 years I have so many, but being present in Westminster Abbey in 1993 for the service of dedication of a commemmorative plaque to George Green was very pleasing.

Which flour is your favourite type, and why?
I like them all, depending on what I'm baking

What would we most often find you baking in your kitchen?
I bake bread almost every week

The Community Garden

The garden is looking particulary lovely at the moment and it is a credit to supervisor Jo Stafford and the volunteer gardeners. New raised beds have been installed, trees pruned and muck spread. It's an unbelievable nine years since we took on the overgrown and derelict allotment plot with little more than an ambition that we might make something good and an asset to our visitors and the local community. The garden continues to evolve under Jo's leadership and we are particularly pleased that the Trust was able to sponsor Jo to gain a qualification as a 'gardeniser' as she explains

The quince tree promises a good harvest this year

With the support of Green's Windmill Trust, I have recently obtained a Gardeniser License through an accredited training program for coordinators in community gardens. This involved 80 hours work spread over 10 weeks and included practical visits to learn from other community gardens.

Being a Gardeniser requires both technical skills, such as practical gardening skills, as well as the ability to enable volunteers who work in the garden to be fully included in the ongoing work in the garden by ensuring good communication, mediation, organisation and management skills of people and finance.

I want to show that Green's Mill Community Garden is well run and that I can be relied on to provide a well-managed experience for those using, volunteering, visiting and enjoying the community garden.

Produce from the garden is often available in the millyard in return for a donation. If you might like to join the garden volunteers do pop in and have a chat. The gang are in the garden every Friday.

From the Millers

The electric millstones are essential for helping fulfil orders when the wind doesn't blow or there are technical problems with the windmill

Hello, everyone,

It's been busy here with flour sales and production remaining steadily above average compared to pre-2020 levels despite the downturn in wind-powered milling. The new flour dresser is proving to be a worthy investment by doing a grand job dressing spelt flour from our electric-powered millstones. We're still experimenting with wheat flour milled on these stones to balance the flour quality against the yield. The old flour dresser had done us sterling service over the years but was in poor condition and beyond hope so we dismantled it and sent such parts as had some use to be recycled (i.e. scrapped)

Behind the scenes, things are progressing with regard to some repair works to the windmill, on which we hope to report in a future edition of this newsletter.

Andy

Some other mills

Windmills occur in many countries where there is grain to be ground. Here's some on the Greek island of Paros in the Aegean Sea. Few - if any - can still grind corn but some are preserved as a quintessential part of the Greek landscape. Their sails are quite different to the sails of English mills, being more like small sails on boats.