

Issue 36 March 2023

Major Work Required



After almost 40 years of successful milling since its early 1980s restoration, Green's Windmill is in need of significant maintenance work. This has required the temporary removal of the sails, which happened on 22nd November. Turning the sails into the wind had become almost impossible as a result of natural wear and tear, subsequent rot found in three of the four beams that make up the cap frame and the cap no longer sitting aligned with the brick tower. This, combined with minor damage to the sails themselves, meant that we have taken the difficult decision to have the sails removed. It is likely that the mill will be without its sails for some time as funding to carry out the repairs needs to be found for work to continue.

Whilst Green's Windmill Trust run the site and keep it open on a day-to-day basis, the windmill and the science centre buildings are owned by Nottingham City Council, so both parties are working in partnership to apply for funding and grants in the coming months to ensure the repairs can take place. The required work has an estimated cost of around £400,000.

Despite the lack of sails, we remain open as usual. You can visit between Wednesday and Sunday, 10am - 4pm. Entry is free. The work will not have an impact on any bookings and the site remains available for school visits, birthday parties etc. and we are still running a full programme of public events. The teams will be working hard behind the scenes towards securing the necessary funding so the major works to reinstall the sails to the windmill can take place. You can find a longer version of this announcement on our website: <https://www.greensmill.org.uk/>

Busy Holidays & the Festival of Science and Curiosity (FOSAC)

Green's Windmill was closed for three of our regular days over the Christmas festive period due to the way the dates fell, yet we still had 600 visitors across seven days. The more recent February half term saw a whopping 1,800 people visit over seven days, many attracted by the free science themed events on offer as part of the Festival of Science and Curiosity (FOSAC). The Nottingham Trent University Women in STEM Society joined us for an action-packed day of science while physicists and students from NTU ran two slimy science events, one of which was so popular that the queue stretched out of the gates and down to the park. In addition, staff and volunteers ran two baking events, both of which attracted a full house of 60 children per activity. Almost £2,000 was raised for the mill over this period. Many people who visited have already booked for our Easter events as these were well advertised around the site.



We'd like to take this time to say a huge thanks to all the representatives of NTU, the organisers of FOSAC and all our wonderful volunteers for making the half term such a success.



Challis Chalice Recipient

At December's volunteers Christmas party, Heritage Officer Jamie presented the prestigious Green's Windmill Trust Challis Chalice for 2022. The Chalice recognises the volunteer who has contributed the most hours in the previous year. It's 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.

Receiving the award in 2022, and contributing over 400 hours, is Dave Pitt. Dave is a jack-of-all-trades who has helped with many of the baking events, restored the benches, renewed the audio-visual technology, built the dresser chute, designed and built the mill sack rack and generally maintained the place. Congratulations to Dave on his achievements last year.

In 2022 our fifty volunteers contributed 4,087 hours. We'd like to thank each and every one of them for giving up their time and supporting us through such a difficult period as the recovery from covid continued. We can't emphasise enough how seeing all their faces each week kept our motivation high and got us through the year. Their help ensures the legacy of George Green continues as we inspire the next generation of mathematicians, scientists, artists, historians and gardeners. Thank you all. And if this has inspired you to volunteer with us you can find more information on our website www.greensmill.org.uk

Autumn Fair & Carols in the Millyard

Our annual Autumn Fair (12th November) and Carols in the Millyard (10th December) events gave a much-needed boost to the coffers toward the end of last year, and drew a good number of visitors to the windmill again. The Autumn Fair hosted 13 stall holders and their wares over a shorter than usual two hour event, but still attracted 230 people and raised £640 for our charity. A month later the popular Carols in the Millyard event returned for the first time since 2019. Once again the Nottingham Ukulele Club and Salvation Army performed popular and traditional carols while windmill staff and volunteers served mulled wine, mince pies and mushy peas. Almost 400 people attended the event which raised £415.



Meet the Team – Bryn Tomlin



What's your hometown and country?

I grew up in Rainham, Essex. People say "Ah *TOWIE!*" Er no, us Southerners are a lot more classy. Think Ford Capri, jellied eels, Southend on Sea and pie and mash with liquor (parsley gravy).

What's your role?

I meet and greet visitors, tell them interesting facts about George Green and Green's Mill and lead tours of the Mill, mainly with school children. I was once asked if I was a boy when the Mill was built.

How long have you been involved?

I've been volunteering for about 2 or 3 years and it's been loads of fun.

What attracts you to contributing at Green's Mill?

It's a unique, interesting and varied site with loads going on and the team are great fun to volunteer with.

Where did you first hear about Green's Mill? My eldest son Leon had a birthday party at the Mill about 22 years ago. He is 31 this year and likes it at home so much he doesn't want to leave.

What's your favourite memory of the site?

The weekly fun and team spirit is always what sticks in my mind.

Which flour is your favourite type, and why?

My favourite flour is wholegrain because it's tasty.

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

Sadly, I don't really bake but this Newsletter and the taste of the excellent pizzas cooked in the pizza oven in our Community Garden have reminded me take some time to start again.

BBC Radio Nottingham Feature

In February BBC journalist Rob Rose visited the windmill for a BBC Radio Nottingham special feature. The main focus was the repairs required to the mill, but staff highlighted that we're still open for visits and entry is free. If you missed the interview or would like to listen again you can catch Leigh and Jamie on BBC Sounds at the link below. They're on at 1h 22m, 1h 50m, 2h 22m and 3h 21m 30s.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0f094qd>

<https://amp.theguardian.com/money/2023/feb/11/enjoy-free-cheap-families-activities-uk-half-term>

London zoo is offering £3 tickets for people receiving certain benefits, including universal credit, until the end of March.

Elsewhere, the Jorvik Viking festival takes place in York from 11 to 19 February, and there are plenty of free or cheap activities for children on the agenda, including Viking crafts and boot camps. The full programme is available online.

Green's Windmill in Nottingham is running free and low-cost activities including fruity cupcake and choc chip biscuit baking workshops on 16 and 18 February respectively (£4 a child, booking essential).

In Leicester, the children's arts event the Spark festival is on from 13 to 19 February, and free events include workshops to design mini placards and banners, a Belgrave Library "takeover" and a tea party.

The Guardian Feature

In addition to the BBC Radio Nottingham

feature, Green's Windmill and Science Centre also featured in The Guardian prior to the recent half term in an article titled "Free and cheap family activities to enjoy in the UK this half-term". The windmill was in good company alongside London

Zoo and the Jorvik Viking festival. Many visitors mentioned they had been inspired to visit by the article, so we're very grateful to author Jess Clark for including us.

Funding News



Our fundraising subcommittee continue to meet every 2-3 months to research, review and apply for grants to help keep the mill open and develop what we offer. We're very grateful for these recently received grants;



National Lottery Community Fund: £9,950 to put on a major two-day summer festival in Sneinton, (dates and details to be confirmed).

Lady Hind Trust: £3,000 in support of our 2023 events programme.

From the Millers



I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone who helped run our numerous successful school visits, school holidays, baking sessions, activities and major events – the Autumn Fair, Carols in the Millyard, Light Night just to name a few.

After a decision to avoid the use of the fantail mechanism for concerns of failure, the removal of the sails was a measure to prevent further damage or complications any stormy winter weather might cause. It is a sad occurrence, but a necessary one to ensure peoples' safety and limit further damage. It will be no surprise that a lack of wind-powered milling has had a noticeable negative effect on flour production and sales.

However, with this grey cloud comes a silver lining. All of us are keen to see the sails returned to the mill as soon as possible. Overall, there is a renewed vigour to drive positive outcomes: increased usage of the electrically powered millstones, running more activities and events, completing outstanding works/improvements across the site (as evidenced by recent works to the reefing stage, the gents' toilet skylight and repointing the wall in the garden entrance). As we move through 2023, I hope we can all channel that positivity and energy into everything we turn our hands to, and I wish you all the very best for the year ahead.

Andy



Trainee miller Leigh Evans, Rob Rose and Jamie Duff

Coming Events

Staff and volunteers are running a number of events over the Easter half term (1st Apr – 16th Apr) including the popular Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Biscuit Baking. Details of all these can be found on our website and Facebook page.

Another guided walk around Historic Sneinton with Green's Windmill Trust Chairman Tom Huggon is due to take place on **26th March**, please phone the mill on 0115 915 6878 to book. The price is £5 per person.

We'll also be celebrating **National Mills Weekend** on **13th & 14th May**, while events to celebrate the King's Coronation on the weekend before will be announced soon.



Economic Impact of Green's Windmill

With the publishing of the national and East Midlands regional Annual Museum Survey in November we discovered the economic impact that Green's Windmill has had in the region. This is calculated by the Association of Independent Museums (AIM). Here at Green's Mill we know, of course, our economic impact in terms of the money that we raise through sales, events, donations and grants (around £700,000 since the Trust started managing the Mill, almost all of it spent locally). However, we were not aware of the wider contribution made to the local economy through e.g. money spent by our visitors elsewhere.

The AIM data is predicated on the 18,000 visitors we had over 2021/22, so straddles the covid pandemic years when our visitor numbers were much reduced. However, the results are still very welcome and highlight what a remarkable contribution our humble venue is making to the local economy.

Green's Mill and Science Centre Nottingham Economic Impact of Visitors figures 2021/22:

Visitors to the Mill
18,027

Value of Local Visitors
£164,904

Value of Day Visitors
£419,654

Total Economic Impact of Visitors to the Local Economy

£584,558

For comparison:

Regional Median Total Economic Impact
£148,926

National Median Total Economic Impact:
£179,961

Real Bread

Many of you will be aware of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) who, over many decades now, have successfully challenged the mass brewing of 'maltade' fizzy beer in favour of more authentic and individual real ales.

There is also a Real Bread Campaign, a charity that promotes bread that is made without chemical raising agents, so-called processing aids or any other additives (other than those required by present laws). So, essentially just flour, water, yeast and salt. However, nearly all of the bread in our shops contains many other ingredients. Here's the ingredients list on a white, sliced loaf with wheat bran:

Wheat flour, Calcium Carbonate, Iron, Niacin, Thiamin, Water. Wheat Bran, Malted Barley Flour, Wheat Germ, Wheat Bran, Wheat Protein, Yeast, Salt, Spirit Vinegar, Emulsifiers (mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids, Vegetable, mono- and diacetyl tartaric acids esters of mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids-vegetable) Vegetable oils (Rapeseed, Palm) Palm fat, preservative (Calcium propionate) Flour Treatment Agent (Ascorbic acid)

The whole issue of what's in bread, the requirements for labelling it and the different production processes is very complex, tied up with trading standards, environmental health and complex regulations regarding international trade in grain, flour and bread. The Real Bread Campaign works to change existing laws to help

people make informed choices about what they eat. For example, at present a loaf may be labelled 'sourdough' but actually be nothing of the sort. There is lots of interesting information on these and other bread issues on the Campaign's website sustainweb.org/realbread/

So, what has this to do with Green's Mill? Obviously, we want people to buy our organic flour (did we mention it is 'award-winning'?) and make their own delicious bread. Promoting a quality, healthy product is a 'plus' for everybody, including small-scale millers such as ourselves. Why not buy some of our flour, bake and enjoy?



The Mills Archive

Another charity that we like is the Mills Archive. A clue's in the name but this is what they say about themselves

The Mills Archive is a permanent repository for the documentary and photographic records of traditional and contemporary mills and milling, as well as similar structures dependent on traditional power sources. It makes that material freely available for public inspection and use in research and learning.

The Mills Archive is one of the world's great mill collections. It has rescued over three million documents and images that might otherwise have ended up in a landfill site. It is an Aladdin's cave filled with memories and free to users. The collections show the rich and diverse crafts, buildings, machinery, equipment and people involved with mills in the UK and around the world.

We believe in the cultural and educational values of mills and historic power sources and wish to turn that into practical support. We extend a warm welcome to family, local, national and international historians, as well as to those who simply want to find out more about our milling heritage.

The archive is freely available to consult, whether you are looking for millers among your ancestors, researching local mills or interested in the technological developments in milling. As well as preserving pretty much everything they can that relates to milling, they email out a weekly newsletter that always has interesting articles.

Have a look at their website www.millsarchive.org

A New Trustee

We are delighted to welcome **Nat Heyliger** to our board of trustees. Those of you who are Sneinton residents may well already know Nat for, as he tells us

I have lived on Sneinton Dale for 16 years, very close to the windmill. My background is several years of youth work at the Greenway Centre in Sneinton. I support Green's Mill as it is a major (free entry) landmark in Nottingham, the technology of how a windmill works is amazing and it is a genuinely nice place to visit in every way. I hope to contribute more of a younger perspective on the windmill and Sneinton, and help promote the windmill locally and globally and support networking, enrichment, acts of kindness and educational activities throughout the future years.

The 'Isaac Newton' Tree

As has been reported here before, we have an apple tree in our Community Garden that is a clone of the famous apple tree in the garden of Woolsthorpe Manor, birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton. There is a scientific continuity between the mathematical achievements of Newton and those of George Green a century or so later. So we were very pleased when our friends at Woolsthorpe (a National Trust property) allowed us to make this pomological connection between the two great scientists.

In the popular story Newton was inspired to come up with his theory and laws of gravity when an apple from the tree (variety: Flower of Kent) fell on his head. A less imaginative, but perhaps more likely, story has it that he observed the apple dropping off the tree from his



Newton's tree at Woolsthorpe



Our tree has a way to go

bedroom window. Maybe he just *thought about* an apple falling. So, what is truth about this most famous of all scientific stories? Well, the truth is that we just don't know. Newton left no written account of what inspired his great insight. And yet . . . *if* Newton thought about an apple falling and *if* it was one on the tree at Woolsthorpe (which is apparently old enough to have been there in Newton's time) then the connection with our tree is valid.

So, how did the story get such currency? Although Newton himself wrote nothing on this, there are several contemporary accounts of the story, the most detailed by the antiquarian William Stukely who, in 1726, dined with Isaac Newton and wrote:

After dinner, the weather being warm, we went into the garden & drank tea under the shade of some apple tree; only he & myself. . . Amid other discourse, he told me, he was just in the same situation, as when formerly the notion of gravitation came into his mind. Why shd that apple always descend perpendicular to the ground, thought he to himself; occasion'd by the fall of an apple, as he sat in contemplative mood. Why shd it not go sideways or upwards? But constantly to the Earth's centre? Assuredly the reason is, that the Earth draws it. There must be a drawing power in matter.

So, true or untrue? Or both? (shades of Schrodinger's cat?) Maybe it doesn't matter. As a later theoretical physicist might have said 'It's all relative'.

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Opening Hours

Wednesday to Sunday

10.00am to 4.00pm

Admission free

