

# WINDMILL NEWS

Friends of West Blatchington Windmill - Newsletter - Aug-Oct 2020

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# A Summer without our Windmill



Have you missed me?  
I've missed you!



A strange Summer indeed!

**W**e thought it might be nice to hear the voices of our volunteers and how they have 'managed' without us.

"My daily walk invariably includes a pass by the Mill. It always makes me smile. It's a constant in my life whatever else is happening, kind *of like an over large and not very cuddly teddy bear!*" **Yvonne B.**

"Added to everything else this summer *I have really missed my windmill volunteering!*" **Mary G.**

"We have missed popping over every weekend to make sure the cakes are all stocked up and having a good chat with our fellow volunteers on the Sundays that we help out. Even though we've been shielding all through lockdown, *we're lucky to be able to see the Windmill from our window so we could check every day that she was O.K!*" **Jacqui & Luke**

"I only do 1 or 2 times a year but *missed the pleasure of seeing some of the other volunteers.*" **Dawn B.**

"We are missing being able to help at the Mill and the company and visitors that go with it. *Thank you to Peter for the 2020 sign, it catches the eye and*

*looks very good* (see below). Let's hope we can all get together and celebrate the bi-centenary next year." **Steve & Veronica**



"Yes, it seems strange not being in. *I often drive past, and have stopped and parked just to walk over, read the notices, and look at the door.* Hoping that there may come a time when it will be allowed to reopen." **Stephen B.**

"When we gathered at the Mill for the AGM little did any of us know what lay ahead. We couldn't have anticipated how our daily lives would change or a time when the Mill wouldn't open for its usual Summer season. It got me thinking *how many changes the Mill has seen both in the surrounding landscape and daily life.* It's comforting to know that despite an ever-changing world, the Mill will still be there patiently waiting until the doors can be opened again." **Liz G.**

"I love being part of the Mill family and feel sad that this year especially, during our 200th anniversary, we couldn't do the things we had planned. What lovely weather we have had too! I feel sure that would have helped with the celebrations.

National Mills day was always a favourite time, working with Joya to prepare the refreshments and homemade cakes, a busy but fun day. I missed chatting to visitors during my tea rotas, especially the children who always enjoy their visit to the Mill. *The Mill is looking so good too, we don't see it often but it always makes me smile when I do catch a glimpse, it looks lovely in the sunshine with a cloudless blue sky behind the sweeps.*"

**Ann F.**

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[www.westblatchingtonwindmill.org](http://www.westblatchingtonwindmill.org)

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"I had been planning to bring my British Origami Group-Brighton, to the Windmill twice in the season this year. *I've missed sitting at the front desk and sewing my fabric origami versions between visitors*, but I think you made the right decision not to open, given how many of our volunteers are in the at-risk categories." **Louise M.**

"*During every week in the summer I am normally banking receipts from the Windmill's open days and for barn hire.* Sadly, we are not receiving this income at present. Despite not receiving possibly £1,000 so far this year, both receipts and outgoings have been minimal, and our funds are not going down." **Andrew G-B.**

"We were due to 'man' the Mill on opening day and closing day. As opening day coincided with the anniversary of the fire Ken had arranged for the fire brigade to come and commemorate this. He had also planned fire themed refreshments. Other commemorations to mark events from the life of the Mill didn't get past the planning stage. *Hopefully for 200+1 we can hold some of those events.* We miss showing people around the Mill and the frequent response of 'We never realised there was so much to see'." **Grace & Ken U.**

"What have I missed most during the lockdown of the Mill? The Wednesday evening work-ins when myself, Charles, our very enthusiastic young volunteer Jack and occasionally Tor, spend a very happy and productive 1-3 hours working on restoration, maintenance and construction jobs plus putting the world to rights at the same time! *The Mill has played such a large part of my life for the past 43 years and I sincerely hope we can get back to some sort of normality very soon.*" **Peter Hill, President.**

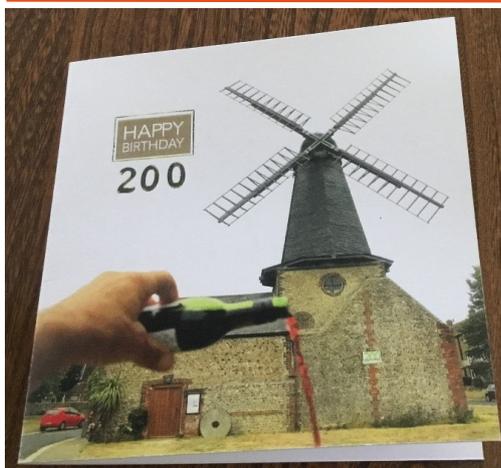
## Bicentenary Booklet

Still available

£3.95 + pp



Order forms are available from the [website](#) or via [email](#) with booklet in the subject line.



## Libation

The 'Birthday card' (shown above & below) was sent to the 'Friends' by Alex Vincent, who compiled the Bicentenary Booklet. He bought the small bottle of red wine, took the train over and walked up to the Mill then as he poured the wine took the photo. Brilliant Alex, thank you.



## New Addition

With plans for celebrating our 200th anniversary being scuppered by the coronavirus lockdown it was felt that we should at least acknowledge it in some way that the public would be aware of this momentous occasion in the mill's history. So with this in mind I constructed the wooden '200' sign which Charles & I hung on the front wall of the flint & brick tower (see front page photo). Hopefully this will inspire those who see it to come along and visit the Mill once lockdown is released. **Peter Hill**

# BICENTENARY DATES 200



## General Notice:

At the recent virtual committee meeting it was agreed, in conjunction with B.&H.C.C., the mill would remain closed for the remainder of the year. Barn Hire also remains suspended until further notice. A review of this decision will be taken at the next committee meeting or in response to any significant Government changes in advice, should these come sooner.

Some plans are in motion to mark the Heritage Week virtually!

Please keep an eye out for notices at the Mill, on our website and via social media.

[www.westblatchingtonwindmill.org](http://www.westblatchingtonwindmill.org)

[f](#) [@WestBlatchingtonWindmill](#)

## BARN HIRE

The Barn is currently **closed** in line with government guidelines. Once restrictions are lifted please refer to our website for booking guidelines. Enquiries are also welcome via [email](#) with 'Barn Hire' in the subject line.

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

Quite a few items planned for this issue haven't made it, thanks to the fabulous response to my emailed request from our volunteers. Keep an eye on the website for some of these items.

Having avoided the prevailing situation in the previous issue it only seemed right to acknowledge how we have all had to adapt. Hopefully the Windmill will be smiling again soon!

Again this edition has been solely distributed digitally, so links in blue are active/live. 'Friends' with email addresses have been sent a copy as usual. Please feel free to print and share a hard copy with others (with all due caution). Copies are also available to read or download from our [website](#) and will also be shared on our Facebook [page](#).

Please send any ideas and/or contributions for the next edition via [email](#) with **Newsletter** in the subject line. **Sue Burgess**

**Next Edition: November 2020**