

# WINDMILL NEWS

Friends of West Blatchington Windmill - Newsletter - Winter 2019

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# Mystery Solved?

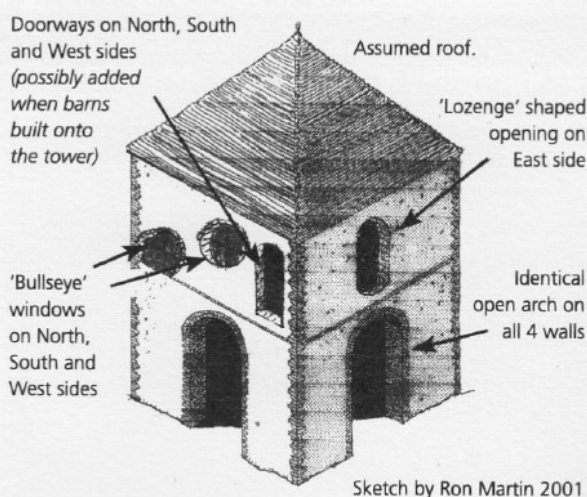
## THE MYSTERY OF THE TOWER ON WHICH THE WINDMILL WAS BUILT

After years of speculation as to the use of the **tower** on which the mill was built, the mystery has, we think, been solved.

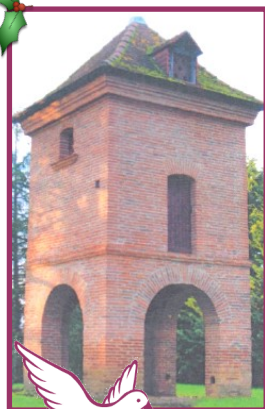
Dating from the early to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, the perfectly square flint and brick tower with just one floor above the four symmetrical archways, (one on each side), has had many suggested uses. Was it a seamark or a beacon, was it for storage of fleeces (over 1600 sheep were recorded on the farm in the early 1800's), a Quaker meeting place, a mortuary, a support for a water storage tank, a folly or a dovecote?

The latter idea was suggested several years ago by our local historian **Trevor Povey**, but discarded until a recent visit by **John Wingrove**, a miller from Lurgashall watermill, who was emphatic that that was its use and proceeded to forward the photo (left) of a French **dovecote** which unquestionably does, in many aspects, resemble 'our' tower.

West Blatchington Mill Tower before erection of mill



In retrospect, with the old village comprised of the church, the farm, the manor house and workers' cottages, a plentiful food source of fresh eggs and meat would be very logical. Plus their droppings were known to be used as a fertiliser. As to whether or not we will ever know conclusively is highly unlikely but it does appear that the mystery has been solved. *Peter Hill*



## Review of our 40th Season

A very busy season it was too. As ever we are extremely grateful to our wonderful volunteers who guided, welcomed, sold and brewed on our behalf. *We opened for 22 Sundays, 4 Main Events, 2 Polling Days, 3 school visits, overseas visitors and a multitude of bookings for the North Barn.* In total we entertained 1054 paying visitors through the door, with this number rising significantly if we add the numerous Barn users; and we still have **2 events to go!**

Co-ordination of the Barn Hire is becoming a significant responsibility for us and we are currently in the process of looking at how technology may help but we really need a dedicated **Barn Hire Co-ordinator**. If you feel this may be something you could help with please contact us using our email [fwbwindmill@gmail.com](mailto:fwbwindmill@gmail.com)



# Raising our profile . . . using FACEBOOK

"I've lived in Hove a long time and didn't realise the Windmill was here, let alone open to visitors!" - Sadly an all too regular response from locals.

We are therefore constantly aiming to 'get the word out there' to encourage more of the community to enjoy our wonderful heritage and highly rated museum.

During our open season this year we have been gradually increasing our presence on Social Media, using **Facebook**. As a result our page has shown a massive increase in **Likes** and **Follows**. Some visitors have also kindly used the recommend/review options to give us a rating of **4.6/5**.

**Are you on Facebook?** It would be great if you could help us. Please **Like** / **Follow** / **Share** / **Recommend**, and **Invite** friends to do likewise.

**@WestBlatchingtonWindmill**

✓ Liked ▼

**West Blatchington Windmill**

**West Blatchington Windmill**  
Page  
Community  
4.6

 **Invite your friends** to like this Page

 239 people like this

 250 people follow this

**Would you recommend West Blatchington Windmill?**

**Yes** **No**

## As promised

A photo of **Hove MP Peter Kyle** with his photo of our Windmill in his office at **Westminster**.



## In Memoriam

As a reader of our Newsletter you will be familiar with the name of **Clive Hamblin** our previous editor, who sadly died so unexpectedly in February 2018. (*Windmill News 39 May 18*)

Having recently received a substantial legacy from his Estate we, your Committee, feel it would be appropriate to attribute the newly **restored floodlighting** around the mill to his memory. Clive loved the mill and he would be so proud to know that she can be admired not only during daylight hours but also, thanks to him, at night time too.

Over the winter months we intend to install a new TV system in the North Barn. This is also thanks to the legacy of a lost friend, **Jill Alderman**. *Peter Hill*



During the evening there will be refreshments and an opportunity to reacquaint yourselves with the Friends, renew membership, and perhaps volunteer to help.

*We look forward to seeing you!*

## Friends AGM

The Friends of West Blatchington Windmill will be holding the annual meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February. After the main business is completed we will be entertained by a talk from Simon Knapman from the **Wey and Arun Canal Trust**.



It will present **London's Lost Route to the Sea** and gives an overview of the canal's history, how and why it was built, the route itself, why it fell into disrepair and what the trust is doing to restore it.

## KEY DATES

**Sat. 30 Nov - 11am - 4pm**

**Christmas Gift Fair**

Shopping & Refreshments



**Weds. 11 Dec - 6.30-8.30pm**

**Carols at the 'mill**

Raffle, Refreshments & Santa!

### Advance Notice:

**Quiz Evening**

Sat. 1 Feb 2020

**Friends AGM**

Thurs. 20 Feb 2020

**Thank You! Evening**

(for Volunteers Only)

Thurs. 2 Apr 2020

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



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### BARN HIRE

North Barn is available for hire at very reasonable rates. For details contact Peter Hill on 01273 776017 or via email with **Barn Hire** in the subject line.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please send any ideas and/or contributions in via email with **Newsletter** in the subject line.

Please also let me know if I can place printed copies anywhere for additional public viewing.

**Next Edition: FEBRUARY 2020**

**Email: [fwbwindmill@gmail.com](mailto:fwbwindmill@gmail.com)**