

WINDMILL NEWS

Friends of West Blatchington Windmill - Newsletter - Winter 20/21

In this issue:

- ◆ 1920s Windmill
- ◆ Situation update
- ◆ While you're away
- ◆ Did you know?
- ◆ A coincidence
- ◆ Glossary 2
- ◆ Ownership
- ◆ Membership
- ◆ Christmas
- ◆ Editor's Note



This print was given to our secretary, Joy Ford, recently by a friend who used to live in the Hangleton area and knows of her involvement with West Blatchington Windmill and thought that she would like it, which she does!

Based on the serial number it can be dated to c1920 and appears to be taken from a spot north-east of the Mill where Toads Hole was. Could that be Nevill Road crossing the picture left to right? The now King George Sixth Avenue climbs to the village and you can see why the locals call it 'Snakey'. Indeed, if you look closely you can see someone walking near the top.



Situation update: The Mill and use/hire of the Barn

The Committee has been meeting via Zoom on a regular basis since late March and the beginning of the Coronavirus lockdown. We have continued to assess whether the mill could open for the 2020 season and also whether the barn could be hired out to its various regular groups and anyone else interested in hiring it.

Sadly, as you know, various events could not take place such as the Wine and Cheese evening. The mill could not open for the 2020 season. The restrictions lifted to such an extent towards the end of August that the Committee met virtually to discuss whether the barn could be hired out again. Unfortunately, just prior to the meeting, the regulations were updated and tightened up again!

Therefore, the answer at the beginning of lockdown was "no" and it has remained so since then, although the mill would normally be closed during the winter months from the end of September. With the latest update of

regulations, it looks as though the barn will remain closed for some time to come.

Sadly, the 'Christmas Fair' and 'Carols at the Mill' will also not take place. The Committee will monitor what happens over the winter months and will assess whether the AGM will be able to take place in the barn during February / March or whether alternative arrangements will be needed.

Joy Ford, Secretary

While you're away!

Life at the mill has been very differentno Sunday openings, no school visits, no barn hire; in fact nothing has happened since lock down.

After the remedial work and repainting were completed in 2017 I laughingly said that if, for any reason, we had to close down, the mill could be 'moth balled' for the foreseeable future little realising how prophetic my words were to be!

However latterly there has been some activity as Charles, Jack and I have put in a couple of hours on a Wednesday painting the walls and generally tidying up the area around the workbench. Work is also well underway constructing a lid for the second grain bin. Outside, Luke has made a good start on landscaping by constructing a long flower bed in front of the brick tower in which he is planting bulbs and shrubs which will certainly enhance the appearance of the building.

This does mean that at least a certain amount of maintenance is being done and that we can keep a check, week by week, that all is well with the mill.

Peter Hill

Ownership

In 1937 the Abergavenny Estate sold the Windmill and surrounding grounds to Hove Corporation, who then passed on management of the mill to the Leisure services Committee in 1992. The Brighton & Hove Council then took over as the mill formed part of the Museums section. Now, as of 1 October 2020 the Windmill falls under the auspices of the Department for Property & Design, Estates Team along with the Portslade Manor Ruins. We look forward to working with them.

Christmas!

Its coming soon, and its likely to be very different!

How about a gift of Membership to the Friends of West Blatchington Windmill.

- Enjoy free admission to the mill throughout the 'Open' season
- Discover its history and hidden secrets
- See the ingenuity of our forbears
- Help maintain our local heritage for future generations

Further details are available on the [Friends](#) webpage.

Additionally we still have copies of our comprehensive DVD and the Bicentenary Booklet. Order Forms available on the [Shop](#) webpage.



Glossary 2

GREAT SPUR WHEEL - The Great Spur Wheel is a large gear attached to the Upright Shaft. It drives one or more Stone Nuts . Located on the Spout Floor of our Mill.

A coincidence!

For several years I have volunteered help on the Windmill's desk on Sunday afternoons. Last year I had a surprise. The particular Sunday started for me as a normal afternoon. A couple visited the mill, and told me that they had spent their early lives in Hove including being married in St Peter's church. The husband added that he was born in Holmes Avenue, at number 109 to be precise. I sat there speechless - I have lived at 109 Holmes Avenue since 1983!

Andrew Granger-Bevan

Membership

It is now possible to pay your membership to the Friends by BACS / Standing Order. Please refer to the [Friends](#) webpage for details.

www.westblatchingtonwindmill.org

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

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. 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: February 2021