

Newsletter

Welcome from the Chairman

Welcome to our 86th newsletter, which is being written at the end of another year for the Trust, as well as the anniversary of the first Covid Lockdown.

It has been an very challenging year, but here you can read about how the Heckington Windmill team have risen to the occasion once again. There has been some sadness to report too, not least the passing of our dear friend Lynda Sergeant who was a valued member of the collections team, and who enjoyed some real adventures through the mill too. One of the photos in Michelle Andrews article shows them on the way back from an auction with some of their purchases for the Millers House, and she



Heckington Windmill



Above : *Steaming Maude during the summer in 2020.*

had an amazing trip with Felicite Tuxford to Australia, hunting down historic Tuxford artefacts.

We are looking forward positively to the future. The financial support we have been given means we are in a sound financial position and there is a clear plan for delivery of the repairs by the County Council. We have plans in place for each stage of the Government's road map for recovery - do come and enjoy the tea room again. Looking further ahead, we are working on the plans for the next 3-5 year period to help realise the enormous potential of this historic site, and will be sharing initial ideas as soon as possible.

Finally, may I thank each one of you for your support during this last year, and I hope you will want to continue for the future as we all work together to care for this outstanding part of our nation's heritage.

With best wishes
Charles Pinchbeck

Update on Windmill Repairs

You may have noticed that the windmill is currently without its shutters having been removed for safety during the winter to prevent any damage due to high winds. We have been liaising closely with Lincolnshire County Council who are still responsible for repairing the mill. The programme was set back when the intended contractors, local firm, Traditional Millwrights run by our friend Neil Medcalf, closed. They are now employing specialist consultants to draw up a detailed repair specification. The intention is then to use to go out to tender to new millwrighting firms. This process is expected to take the rest of the financial year, following which, the council will be in a position to place a contract. The repair works themselves are likely to take 18-24 months once instructed.

We can't wait to see our beautiful mill working again



Above : Mill with shutters removed in preparation for repair



Above : Milling on the Hurst frame during lockdown

Milling during Lockdown

Thanks to the hard work of the milling and engineering team we have been able to keep milling our own stoneground Wholemeal Flour throughout the pandemic.

Using the Hurst Frame driven by the Ruston oil engine they have produced sufficient flour to keep up with demand for flour during the last year.

Support Grants

We are extremely grateful to have received support from our local Council as part of the Government support scheme for businesses required to close during lockdown. This has enabled us to make plans for the coming year which is particularly important in these unpredictable times.

Afternoon Tea in the Edwardian Parlour

Don't forget that you can book a traditional afternoon tea in the Miller's House Parlour for the afternoon or for a special occasion. Just £15 per person.

And if you have a larger party planned, why not choose the Miller's House for a private function. Contact Liz Ward at millhouse@heckingtonwindmill.org.uk to book a table



Tuxford Book News

The plans to publish the fascinating history of the Tuxford family and business have taken a huge leap forward, thanks to a very generous donation from our good friend Felicite Tuxford, a direct descendant of the famous Boston family.

We are now able to push ahead with finalising and printing the book, and are aiming for a launch party at the windmill in the autumn. It will be a fitting tribute to Lynda Sergeant who was a key member of the book team.

Did you know a Tuxford traction engine built in 1861 and still surviving in Sweden is probably the oldest traction engine in the world.?



Welcome to Liz Ward our new Tea Room Manager

We are now very pleased to welcome to the team Liz Ward, who is running the Miller's House.

Liz is excited to be joining the mill and has lots of ideas for updating the tea room and has just finished preparation for the new spring menu. She lives in Heckington and says:

"I moved from Bristol 16 years ago with my two daughters, who have both since left home & graduated from university. My husband & I moved to Heckington a year ago and love it! I fell in love with the Windmill having visited it and discovering how friendly & welcoming everyone was. I am really excited to be starting this new venture & am looking forward to meeting new faces!"

Please join us in welcoming her on board and when you are in the village, do pop down for some of our delicious home-made cakes and lunches from 19th April and say hello.

The Shop at the Mill goes online!

In November with the winter approaching and the possibility of another lockdown, we decided to take the Shop at the Windmill online.

Many of our products have been uploaded to the website and orders are coming in from across the UK!

If you are missing our flour or oats, or need a gift for someone, check out our online shop at

www.heckingtonwindmill.org.uk

And remember everything you buy helps towards keeping this amazing windmill going.



SUMMER 2021 OPENING

Subject to Government restrictions we are planning on fully reopening the site as soon as possible.

From 21st May:

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

WINDMILL & SHOP– 11am–4pm

TEA ROOM–10.30am–4.30pm

Inside and outside seating & booked visits into the windmill

From 22nd July:

Mondays Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

WINDMILL & SHOP– 11am–4pm

TEA ROOM–10.30am–4.30pm

Inside and outside seating & booked visits into the windmill

From 5th September:

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

WINDMILL & SHOP– 11am–4pm

TEA ROOM–10.30am–4.30pm

Inside and outside seating & booked visits into the windmill

We are really looking forward to seeing everyone again soon!



Collections Team

Early this year was a very sad time for volunteers at the Mill, as our good friend Lynda Sergeant passed away. As a member of the Collections Team since its formation in 2015, she will be truly missed. She was a meticulous researcher and ambassador for Heckington Windmill, and made a huge contribution to its archive, social and family history. Lynda was diligent, dependable, warm-hearted and such fun to be with. She leaves us with fond memories of the time we shared. Her legacy lives on through Heckington Windmill.



Too well loved to be forgotten



Rest in Peace Lynda



Left: Some members of the Collections Team planting 8 roses in the Miller's House garden, in memory of Lynda.

Filming at the Windmill

The latest film crew to visit us were the BBC's Antiques Road Trip team, who came on 25th October as part of their tour of the East Midlands.

It was a great opportunity to share with people the importance of mills in our nation's history, and also just how special ours is! Expert Izzy Balmer spent the whole day with us learning about the mill and getting some great footage - the production team were really happy with what they were able to film.

Look out for us in the 5th and final episode of the next series, due to air later in the year. The windmill continues to attract TV crews from all over the country - indeed we already have an enquiry for a booking for next year - watch this space for more details!



Above : Filming in the summer of 2020 for Antiques Road Trip.

AGM Update

We have traditionally held our AGM in June, and of course last year meant we had to do a very curtailed Zoom event in September. The plan for 2021 is to again aim for the Autumn but hoping able to meet again in person. Look out for more details in our Autumn newsletter

Heckington Windmill Trust

Hale Road, Heckington, NG34 9JW

Registered Charity No: 1139207

Company No: 07210264

Christmas Hamper Delivery

The County heritage charity, Heritage Lincolnshire were looking for a special Christmas treat for their 40 Heckington based staff and we were delighted when they chose our special festive hampers as the perfect gift. Each one hand-packed these included Lincolnshire Plum Loaf, Grantham Gingerbread Biscuits, locally made Jams and Chutneys, our own Porridge Oats and a Chocolate Mouse! These were very well-received by the recipients who thought they were fantastic. Is it too early to log this as an idea for some of your 2021 Christmas shopping?



Above : One of over 40 hampers delivered to Heritage Lincolnshire.

Membership

Don't forget to renew your membership when it becomes due.

Your membership is a very important part of the Trust and we are extremely grateful for all your support.



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