

Heckington Windmill

Welcome from the Chairman

A warm welcome to our Spring 2022 newsletter, with details of all the activity at Heckington Windmill. It also announces our **2022 AGM on Friday 24th June** at the Windmill. It's a great chance to see the team, and catch up on past events and find out about exciting plans for the future.

The windmill is definitely thriving with many more people coming to visit and enjoy the tearoom. We have definitely recovered from Covid! Our smart new roadside trailer sign on the A17, funded by Covid support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund has been a major part in this surge. Thanks to David Nickols for giving permission to site it on his land. It's been great to have so many new families discovering the windmill - our main reason for being. A huge thank you to all the team for making all this happen.

During the winter the Board have been looking at our plans for the future. Everyone who visits the windmill loves it so this has to include how we attract more visitors, and also offer them different experiences. We are also conscious how much the organisation has grown, and are keen that our volunteers feel supported, and that our systems continue to develop in line with the organisation's growth. To help with all this, we have applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding for a Project and Engagement Officer. The idea is that



the grant will fund the first three years of the role, with the aim that increased activity and revenue would make the post self-sustaining in the future. Our application went in just before Easter, and whilst a formal decision is awaited the initial feedback is very positive. Watch this space!

The windmill itself remains in the forefront of our minds, and we're delighted that progress continues towards its full restoration. In the week before Christmas we welcomed specialist conservation architect Phillip Orchard with millwright Tim Whiting, and spent a day together giving the mill a thorough inspection for a detailed specification of works to be drawn up. Thanks to our President and leading mill expert Martin Hanson and retired mill manager Jim Bailey for their knowledge. Thanks to Tim Payne of Kier, the County Council's surveyors, for continuing to progress this so diligently.

Whilst on people and thanks, we are grateful to Paul Reid for all he has done during his time with us as he steps down from his various activities at the mill. And thanks to everyone on the team who has helped make sure all these continue to be covered. With best wishes for the summer season - and looking forward to seeing you at the AGM!

Charles Pinchbeck, Chairman



Filming for Visit Lincolnshire tourism in October 2021

Collections Update

Great news! The Collections team have been awarded two grants from Museum Developments East Midlands, one to buy more archival boxes and packaging to house our collection of objects, documents and photographs (soon to be accessible on the mill's website). The other is for purchasing items for our Education Handling Boxes which can be used for groups of visiting children.



A vintage butter churn and a modern coffee grinder with gear mechanisms purchased for our 'Food' Handling Box.

JUBILEE EXHIBITION

We are also busy preparing for a small display of images and objects in the Granary to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

This will run for a few weeks in May and June.



New Stock for Mill Shop

In January a group of us went to the Spring Gift Fair at the NEC in Birmingham to look for new suppliers for the Shop at the Mill. We found some lovely items, including new preserves, beautiful giftware featuring bees, pretty craft felt items and a new chocolate supplier. Do drop in and see what we have to offer – we also have our own Heckington Windmill branded fudge and shortbread. A perfect take-home gift for your visitors!

Clotted Cream Fudge



Clotted Cream Fudge

Grant Application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund

We are pleased to advise that we have submitted an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for funding to support the activities at the windmill. The aim of the project is to increase the range of activities and events at the windmill, increasing engagement with local community and volunteers.

With the help of a funded part-time position the aim of the three year project is to enhance the education and volunteering opportunities at the windmill, increasing visitors and the range of activities on site.



Brilliant experience with a guided tour—fun and informative

A lovely place to visit, would recommend it

Very friendly staff ...the cakes were brilliant

Winter Talks 2022

The Winter Talks held in February and March were a great success with talks on the Lincolnshire Countryside, The Spalding Gentlemen's Club and the History of The Guardian newspaper.

We are already making plans for speakers for next year; if you have any ideas or suggestions please do get in touch! enquiries@heckingtonwindmill.org.uk

Engineers work on Blackstone Mill

David Nickols has kindly loaned two Blackstone Mills which have been restored over the last twelve months. You may have seen them being trialled at the steaming days this year, being driven by our steam engine Maud.

Produced in the late 19th century in Stamford, by Jeffrey & Blackstone (later Blackstone & Co), the vertical stone mills would have been used to mill flour on a small scale. The repair and restoration have proved to be both a challenging and thoroughly enjoyable process and has required a wide spectrum of skills and ingenuity from the group to bring them both back to a working condition, whilst retaining their historic pedigree.

What now? The later Blackstone and Co mill, when finally finished will hopefully produce flour that we can sell, and we should be able to confirm that in the coming months. The earlier Jeffery & Blackstone will most likely be retained in our collection as a static display, as whilst it produces flour, a design shortcoming allows a small quantity of lubricating oil to contaminate the flour. Whilst this may have been acceptable in the 19th century, it certainly is not today! We assume this fault was recognised by the manufacturer, as it has been designed out in the later mill.



*Before & after
restoration work*



Mini Millers

As well as preserving our unique windmill, the Trust also has an objective of educating the public about the Mill's history and how it works. In the Autumn 2021 we started a new monthly group for children aged 7 - 11 called "Mini Millers". Each Mini Miller session has two main elements - a baking / cooking section followed by looking at some aspect of how the windmill works.

Youngsters have made bread, muffins, jam tarts, gingerbread men and cookies and have looked at how wind turns the sails, cogs and gears, how the stones mill flour & the Edwardian Miller's House. It has been great to see the Bakehouse facilities put to greater use and to introduce youngsters to various aspects of the windmill.

Afternoon Tea

Don't forget that you can book a traditional afternoon tea in the Miller's House Parlour for that special occasion, or just for a treat!

Only £15 p/person.
Bookings required.
Phone 01529 461919



01529 461919

ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2022 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Heckington Windmill Trust

To be held on

Friday 24th June 2022

At Heckington Windmill, NG34 9JW

Please email: membership@heckingtonwindmill.org.uk if you are able to attend

Annual 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 over the years.

You can now renew by Direct Debit via our website to make it even easier!



Contact Anne Strong
membership@heckingtonwindmill.org.uk

*History combined with
a wonderful café. Who
could ask for more?*

Contacts

Chairman, Charles Pinchbeck

chairman@heckingtonwindmill.org.uk

Membership, Anne Strong

membership@heckingtonwindmill.org.uk

Heckington Windmill Trust Hale Road, Heckington, NG34 9JW

Registered Charity No: 1139207

Company No: 07210264

Windmill Opening Times

Windmill and Shop

Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays
11am—4pm

Miller's House Tea Rooms

Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays
10.30am—4.30pm

School Summer Holidays Extended Opening

Windmill & Shop

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Mondays
11am—4pm

Miller's House Tea Rooms

Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays
10.30am—4.30pm

Plus: OPEN every Bank Holiday during the summer

*Lovely place to
visit, everyone so
friendly!*

