

WINDMILL NEWS

Friends of West Blatchington Windmill - Newsletter - February 2022

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Quiz Night 2022 Winners

New Season, New Volunteers?

We are very fortunate to be able to open the Windmill to the public because of a loyal band of volunteers. However the past two seasons have seen our numbers reduced due to various, and often emotional, reasons.

Our intention for 2022 is to open for a full season again but to do this we will not only need to call upon our trusted friends but we would love to welcome some new faces.

Soon we will be contacting all volunteers with an invite to offer their services for the Tour, Desk or Tea Rota for at least **ONE SUNDAY AFTERNOON** between May and September. We will again offer training for all who would like it.

Do please contact us if you feel you can help in anyway or have any questions.

Email: fwbwindmill@gmail.com

Facebook: [@WestBlatchingtonWindmill](https://www.facebook.com/WestBlatchingtonWindmill)

Messenger: [Message](#)

Some you win, some you lose!



Our Quiz Evening returned in January with a 'barnful' of eager participants. Charles & Jan Pearson again produced a super evening full of testing questions and friendly banter. There were questions on Spelling, General Knowledge, Sport, 'In the News', Health/Medical, Cookery and a picture round.

Is a Jaffa Cake a cake or biscuit? What do Heliographers study? How long is a Javelin? What is Boris Johnson's full name?

I think it's fair to say we all learnt

something, and experienced the joy of a good guess!

Congratulations to winners, **John & Jean Thrussell** with **Mervyn & Sally Stedman**, pictured above enjoying their spoils.

The winning team name provided the title for this article. Very apt as they finished some way behind our winners!

Thank you to all who took part, and especially Charles & Jan. I know they are keen to do more, so watch this space.

NOTICE of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the
41st Annual General Meeting of the
Friends of West Blatchington Windmill
 will be held in the **NORTH BARN** on
Thursday 17th MARCH 2022 at 8pm.

Accompanying talk to be confirmed. Details will be emailed/posted to all 'Friends'



A New Exhibit for the Mill

Recently we have been very fortunate to acquire another fine exhibit for the mill. This is not associated directly with our mill but with our nearest neighbour, Patcham Waterhall mill. It has come courtesy of a 'Friend' who kindly contacted me to say that his sister had moved into a house in Patcham and the upper half of the front door consisted of a stained glass panel depicting a windmill, would I be interested? "Oh yes" was my immediate reply when I realised it was a beautiful representation of Patcham mill and we had the perfect place to display it within our mill.



Built in 1884/5 for Joseph Harris who had a bakers shop in Patcham village, she was the last windmill to be built in Sussex. The brick tower was built by Hubbard of Preston and Holloway & Son of Shoreham were the millwrights who fitted her out. She ceased work in 1924 and over the following years was domesticated and subsequently has had several owners, one of whom, a Mrs Christiansen, was given

permission to serve afternoon teas in the mill garden. A later owner replaced the original internal wooden ladders with a spiral staircase supposedly from St Paul's Cathedral. She also installed a swimming pool and a Chinese garden, both long since gone. On 9th December 1990 during a snowstorm, a tremendous clap of thunder was followed by a lightning strike which did a vast amount of damage to the mill including shattering the sweeps. A section of one of these was saved by Frank Gregory and is displayed beneath the glass panel.

Charles and I carefully removed the pane from the upper part of the door and between us carefully constructed a frame which displays it perfectly in the window area directly opposite the entrance to the west barn.

Peter

QUIZ TIME:

How well do you know our windmill?

2/10

1. We recently determined the most likely purpose of the original flint tower at the base of the Windmill. What is it?
2. Who had the Windmill built, on top of this tower?
3. Where did the timber come from that was used to create the A-frame that supports the great spur wheel?
4. Who was the first known miller?
5. How many floors are there in the Windmill?
6. Who painted the Windmill in 1825?
7. Which part of the Windmill complex was destroyed by fire in 1936?
8. What was the Windmill used for during WW2?
9. The Windmill was given Listed status in 1950. At what level?
10. In what year did the Windmill open to the public, after restoration?

Don't know some or all? Consider our [Bicentenary Booklet](#)



Christmas Tree Festival

Above is a picture of our Christmas Tree Festival entry. We have received a tremendous amount of positive feedback since our debut in the competition. We are delighted with our 2nd place and look forward to the next challenge.

Thank you to Veronica Edmonds and Grace Upton, who helped realise the vision plus Steve (the quern stone mover) and Ken for their support. Also to the St. Peter's Church Community for hosting such a lovely event.

We even made it on to the front cover of the Sussex Mills Group Newsletter last month.



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Digital newsletter copies have been emailed to 'Friends' where possible. They 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

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