



WINDMILL NEWS

Friends of West Blatchington Windmill - Newsletter - Summer 2019

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14 July 1979—2019

Open 40 years!

Tilting at the paying public....

West Blatchington Windmill has come a long way since its public debut. It is a good time to look back at the events and stories surrounding the occasion as reported in our local papers.

In its Jan 14 1977 copy, the Brighton & Hove Gazette carried a story detailing the intention to investigate the possibility of opening West Blatchington Windmill to the public.



Brighton & Hove Gazette



"At the moment the millattracts visitors who must obtain permission to look round. But Hove's Chief Planning Officer, Mr Michael Ray, thinks it might be possible to find volunteers to run the mill and open it to the public."

Old mill gets new lease of life

Restoration then began, co-ordinated by Keith Wood, Hove's Assistant Planning Officer, who was quoted as saying in the same newspaper,

"It is planned to open its doors to the public as a showpiece of early Victorian engineering and architecture."

This article also mentioned the Hove Fire Brigade being on standby to manually move the sweeps for the first time in nearly 80 years.

However,

"At the slightest touch the mechanism sweetly turned over after all those years."



They also added that,

"retired teacher Frank Gregory and chemist Peter Hill, both mill experts,dressed up in yokel gear and waved from the sails to more than 100 enthusiasts...below".

It is also worth noting the admission prices! Adults 10p, Children 5p. Those were the days!

Join us on Sunday July 14 2019 as we mark this special occasion and help us spread the news,

WE ARE OPEN!

Flour power gets 'em milling about

Exactly 18 months since the first article , on July 14 1979, a large crowd gathered to see the doors officially opened by Hove's Mayor, Councillor John McNaughton. The Evening Argus reported the expense as nearly £4000, along with 'valuable help from boy and girl volunteers'.



WEST BLATCHINGTON WINDMILL
Holmes Avenue, Hove

40th Anniversary Community Event
Sunday 14 July 2019
1pm—5pm

Entertainment from:

- Black Powder Morris
- Hangleton Band
- Games and Sideshows

Refreshments including:

- Our famous Strawberry Cream Teas
- Plus a selection of Craft and Produce Stalls

Come and help us celebrate the anniversary of our first public opening!

Did you know...?
 Guides, Rangers and pupils of Portslade Community, Hove Grammar, and Nevill Schools, assisted volunteers to open the mill.



Watercolour

Thanks to a tip off, our President Peter Hill, managed to acquire this lovely watercolour of the mill. He attended an auction at Gorrings and successfully bid for the painting dated c1830. However this date has elicited a general debate about its accuracy due to what can and cannot be seen in the painting,

compared to contemporary images and documentation.

Sadly the painting is unattributed and efforts to research further background information have so far proved fruitless.

A copy will, of course, be on display in the North Barn for the Open Season.

News

The 'Life above a railway tunnel' illustrated talk given at the AGM by David Porter was extremely well received. It was so very interesting, informative and emotional. Thanks again David.

This was followed by the 'Cheese & Wine Evening' given as a thankyou to our wonderful volunteers. However it must be noted that attendance was a little disappointing. As the evening is also an opportunity to fill the rotas for the new season, this proved more challenging.

At the time of printing it is understood that there are still some gaps in the rota for the Windmill Desk and Guides, plus a couple of dates for Teas. We are equally in need of help for our big Anniversary Event this Summer.

If you are able to help in any way it would be really appreciated.

Thank you in anticipation!

2019 Season

We have had a great start to the new season. The mill was teeming with families on the Opening day.

Then on Sun 12 May, we celebrated National Mills Day, which, as you can see below, was a lovely day. Thanks to our volunteers and guest demonstrators there was plenty of interesting things to see. However, the clash with the end of the football season may have kept numbers down!



National Mills Day 2019: Stephen Batey

KEY DATES

Sun. 16 June - 1pm

Fathers' (Sussex) Day

Ploughmans Lunch & Mill Tour for £8.50

plus a Sussex Quiz

Booking required via email with **Fathers Day** in the subject line or by phone **07564634206**
Mill open as usual 2.30-5pm

Sun. 14 July - 1 - 5pm

40th Anniversary Community Event

See poster on front page

ENTERTAINMENT, FUN, CRAFT, CREAM TEAS, TOURS ...

www.westblatchingtonwindmill.org



@WestBlatchMill



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Advance Notice:

Heritage Day

Sun. 15 Sept 2019

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.

EDITORS NOTE:

Thank you for all the positive feedback received about this new format. I do hope that I can keep it going and that more of you might add to the variety of contributions.

Apologies for the slight delay in arrival of this edition.

For the next edition send 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.

Sue Burgess

Next Edition: AUGUST 2019

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