



# Holgate residents form preservation society

by Brian Lambert, Secretary

The Society evolved as the result of a Citizens Pledge made by Christine Bramwell to erect a notice board at the Windmill giving an account of its history, structure, and workings. In February 2001 the Holgate Ward Committee granted £1000 for the display board and, at that meeting, several people expressed to Christine their interest in the establishment of a "Friends of..." or Preservation Society for the Mill.

The initial meeting was held on 28 June 2001 at Holgate Methodist Church and was attended by 14 people, including Julie Boyes, of the City of York Community Leisure Office, who, over the following 5 months, worked with the group to establish it as a properly constituted Society.

The Initial Annual General Meeting was held on the 29 November 2001 and was open to any members of the public or interested parties. The Constitution was accepted, a committee of 15 members was elected, together with its officers, and the Society officially came into existence.

## Holgate Windmill - a building unique in England?

Vice-chairman Richard Green explains why he thinks our windmill is unique and why it should be preserved.

The esteemed engineer from Leeds, John Smeaton, (who also designed and built the still standing Eddystone lighthouse) experimented on the efficiency of windmills. His introduction of the five-sailed windmill, ironwork, the ogee cap, sailbacks, and iron windshaft did much to improve the millers lot. Holgate windmill, having all these devices, epitomises the Lincolnshire pattern mill, both elegant and efficient. Holgate windmill may be the only full, double shuttered, five-sailed mill in England, which makes it ripe for preservation.

The miller George Waud built Holgate Windmill in 1782 and he and his sons ran the mill until 1851. It is a good example of a tarred brick Lincolnshire style mill now sadly denuded of its five sails and fantail. Much of the drive train still exists along with the tentering rear and four pairs of stones. The mill has been raised in recent times giving a pleasing shape topped with its white cap.

## A Positive Start

by Christine Bramwell, Treasurer

A positive start is just how I would describe the first financial year of the HWPS.

Although the Treasurers role is a new learning curve for me I have enjoyed setting up the accounts/books for the Society and have attended a free book-keeping course at the Priory Centre. I hope to transfer all our records onto computer in the near future.

So far 43 households have signed up for membership, most in the local area but some as far away as the Lake District and Leicestershire.

Thanks for your continued support. A full financial report will be available at the AGM in May.

| Holgate Windmill Preservation Society |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chairman                              | Secretary                      |
| Robert Hall                           | Brian Lambert                  |
|                                       | 2 Murray Street, Holgate, York |
|                                       | YO24 4JA 01904 799295          |
| Vice-chair                            |                                |
| Richard Green                         | Newsletter design by           |
|                                       | Bob Anderton                   |
| Treasurer                             |                                |
| Christine Bramwell                    |                                |



**Holgate Windmill**  
**PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

*A message from our chairman . . .*

*Welcome to the first edition of Millnews the Holgate Windmill Newsletter.*

*With this twice-yearly publication we hope to keep you up to date with what's going on regarding progress towards the restoration of the mill. As in most projects and enterprises there has to be much preparatory work and at first there does not appear to be visible achievement. The committee has, however, met on three occasions and individuals are beavering away at specific tasks - Obtaining Charitable Status, Feasibility Study, Business Plan, Funding through the Heritage Lottery Fund, Other means of funding, Planning, Publicity, Liaison with other Windmill Societies, and Creating a Windmill Archive.*

*Many of these need detailed preparatory work before tangible results can be appreciated but the work continues and this newsletter will inform you how we are coping.*

*To hear more please come to the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 30th May 2002 at 8.00pm at Holgate Methodist Church. In the meantime have an enjoyable read and many thanks for your support.*

*Robert Hall - Chairman*

*Visit our website at :  
www.communitate.co.uk/york/holgate/mill*

**Visit the Holgate Windmill stall at Westbank Park on Sunday 30th June 1pm - 4pm**

*Visit our website at : www.communitate.co.uk/york/holgate/mill*

## Meeting the Planners.

In March Richard Green and Paul Hepworth met with the City of York Council's local Planning and Conservation Officers. In a constructive session the Society's intention to restore the Mill and seek Planning Consent for this was revealed. Discussion centred on extent of restoration, sails and machinery and possibly the need for a permanent "heritage" style security fence round the completed building.

During renovation strict conditions would be laid down to cover noise levels and the method of delivering building supplies to a very constricted site. Temporary road closures to crane off, and later replace the cap, might also be on the cards.

Public access would be a major condition of Lottery grant. Also we would be charging for visits, to help offset the cost of insurance, heating and lighting. A limit on the number of daily visits must be made, which preserves the ambience for local residents, but which also lets the Society balance its books.

The Fire Brigade would determine the number of visitors allowed inside the Mill. This might also be the maximum size of a group, to avoid some visitors wandering about the street. Groups coming from afar would be encouraged to use a minibus, or car share. They could be dropped off at one end of Windmill Rise, with the vehicle then being parked on Acomb Road.

A separate reply on traffic issues came from the Council's Highways dept. There were no insuperable problems, but care must be taken with positioning of a visitor entry / exit, to minimise risk to both pedestrians and local motorists. The existing steps might have to be moved round by 90 degrees. Signs and traffic calming measures might be considered.

The next major contact with the Planners will come, after the Feasibility Report is published. *Watch this space. - Paul Hepworth*

### City of York Council

*The City of York Council have assisted the HWPS in many ways; the advice and guidance in writing the Constitution, assistance with the Notice Board, guidance in Planning Permission, and general enthusiasm for our cause. They have also instigated a programme of making safe, and surveying the structure of the Mill.*

*I see the wealthy Miller yet,  
His double chin, his portly size,  
And who that knew him would forget  
The busy wrinkle round his eyes?  
The slow wise smile that round about  
His dusty forehead dryly curl'd,  
Seemed half within and half without  
And full of dealings with the world.*

*Part of Tennyson's  
"The Miller Daughter"  
Richard Green*

## HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

The Society is committed to the repair and restoration of Holgate Mill and key to this ambition is the raising of monies to finance the acquisition, repair, conservation and operation of the building and it's mechanisms.

An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund is crucial to this process.

The HLF supports projects which restore and return to operational use buildings reflecting our rich industrial heritage. Our application needs to show that the restoration of Holgate Mill will help to preserve and enhance public access to, or understanding and enjoyment of,

one or more aspects of our physical heritage. Returning the Mill to operational use with all of it's educational and visitor benefits should meet these criteria.

The Heritage Lottery Fund could give an award of up to 75% of the total project cost. The remaining monies will have to be raised by The Society but these could come from other grant sources as well as local fundraising events.

Before HLF funding can be granted the Society needs to have received Planning and Listed Building Consent for the proposed work from The City of York Council. We also need to own the freehold of the Mill or have a lease on the property of at least 25 years.

The Society's financial position and its ability to properly maintain the project in the long term are also important elements of any HLF application.

A final and important requirement is that any HLF application should include evidence that the project is supported by the local community, and that local people, including children and their schools, can benefit and participate in the scheme. The Holgate Mill Preservation Society can apply for funding but to be successful it requires the support, both moral and financial, of the residents of Holgate and the City.

*Stephen Potts*

## Funderfinder.

Paul Hepworth recently spent a happy lunchtime, with the Funderfinder computer database, at York Council for Voluntary Services Priory St. office. We now have a list of potential donors for the 25% match funding, which the Heritage Lottery Board requires us to obtain.

But that's just the beginning of the story. Next is the trawl through the CVS library of

fundraising reference books, to check the entries which Funderfinder throws up. A charity, which funds old building restoration in Devon, may appear on the print out, if our search criteria were not adequate.

Some reference books at CVS contain possible donors which are not in the Funderfinder database. So they need a separate trawl through.

Having discarded the less likely donors, the letter writing marathon begins. There's an art to this, which if not properly followed, will result in the application letter travelling vertically downwards, to the recipient's waste bin! Fortunately there are some helpful publications around, to guide unwary applicants.

Mail Merge can remove much of the drudgery, but still create

a professional looking application letter. We will have disappointments, but a successful application will equally boost morale.

Any Society members who can help Paul with the next phase, during another lunchtime trip to Priory Street, please put your hand up. He is contactable -

[viapaul@hepworth77.freemove.co.uk](mailto:viapaul@hepworth77.freemove.co.uk)