

Millnews

Number 2

Holgate Windmill awarded over £21,000

by Bob Anderton, committee member

In August and September of this year two stories in the Yorkshire Evening Press proved to be of great interest to our Society. The first concerned the Local Heritage Initiative, a Lottery funded organisation which give awards to local community groups involved in heritage projects.

The article mentioned that York groups were missing out on up to £25,000 of funding per project because no one had shown any interest in the awards. Quickly realising that this could provide us with much needed start-up finance, an application (called Project Quantum Leap) was speedily put together and submitted, and after enthusiastic help and guidance from Jane Haigh, the LHI area adviser, we received confirmation on the 23rd October that £21,875 had been awarded. This amount covers a variety of items including (most importantly) a millwright's survey, membership and promotional literature, a computer and archiving finance, plus much more.

The second story concerned the Gannett Foundation. This is the charitable arm of Gannett Co. Inc, owners of the Yorkshire Evening Press. They were also looking for local charity projects (to support with up to £5,000) that take a creative approach to amongst other things - neighbourhood improvements, environmental conservation and cultural enrichment. We should hear sometime in December whether our application for funding for a feasibility study has been successful - so watch this space!

Welcome as this award is, it is only the start of our fundraising activities. The full renovation of the mill will take several hundred thousand pounds and the majority of this will have to be obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund. However your committee has made an excellent beginning in achieving this award.

Archivist's Report *by our Archivist - Chris Weaire*

Our first Archive collection began in January this year with just a few newspaper cuttings, and has expanded rapidly over the past nine months. Articles from the Evening Press, Yorkshire Gazette & Herald date back to 1841 when the windmill and surrounding buildings were offered for sale at auction.

We have a growing collection of old photographs, copies of structural surveys undertaken and documents relating to repair work on the mill; also a small collection of 'windmill' books and magazines from other mill groups.

Following my appeal published in 'Readers' Letters' in the Evening Press, the Society has received a lovely original watercolour painting of the mill, dated 1930, donated by Christine Davies of Pocklington, who used to live in the Acomb area. We have also been given a superb large framed aerial photograph of part of Holgate, showing the windmill and taken about 1995, kindly donated by Sybil and Ruth Strange of Holgate.

I have visited the Evening Press office recently, and am grateful to Jill Wignall in the library for giving her time to locate articles dating back to 1950, now photocopied for our collection.

I am still seeking other articles and photographs, and would be interested in talking to anyone who has personal memories, for example - played or lived near the mill years ago, remembers the area before the houses were built, when the sails came down and similar interesting windmill memories.

A National Mills Archive is in the process of being set-up; they have a website at www.millarchive.com



As we go to press arrangements are being made to produce copies of the Mill watercolour as notelets and as a limited edition fine-art print. These will be available for sale - call Christine Branwell on 01904 786893 for prices.



**Holgate
Windmill**

PRESERVATION SOCIETY

*A message from our
chairman . . .*

As I wrote in the last newsletter, visible progress is slow to be seen in the early stages of a project. But there has been progress! It is with great pleasure that we have welcomed the Archbishop of York as our patron. Dr David Hope kindly agreed to take on this role and will be present at our Annual General Meeting on 20th May 2003.

You will read in this publication of Millnews about the steady growth of membership and various activities of the committee and its members as we begin to set the ball rolling. What will really pep up the momentum will be the obtaining of the lease for the mill. So many of our applications for grants depend on the society being the leaseholder of the mill. We are in negotiations with the City of York Council who are very supportive of the project but safety work has to be carried out on the mill before the lease can be transferred to the society.

However there is good news on the funding front. (See our front page headline!)

What has been very heartening has been the growth of fellowship within the group. As we work together relationships are formed, they develop and are valued. Holgate Windmill Preservation Society has life and is vibrant.

*Enjoy the newsletter - it is
a good read.*

Robert Hall - Chairman

*P.S. A very merry Christmas and
happy New Year to all our members!*

*Visit our website at
www.comminigate.co.uk/york/holgatamill*

HOLGATE MILL - STRUCTURAL INSPECTION

Progress on the initial feasibility study for the restoration of Holgate Mill has been hampered by the condition of the existing structure and fabric. The City of York Council's insurers have so far refused access to anyone other than Council employees until a full Health and Safety audit has been carried out on the building.

To accurately identify the condition of the Mill, structural engineers Scott Wilson were appointed by the Council to carry out a thorough inspection. This was completed in September 2002 and the City of York Council and the Society are currently debating its contents. Unfortunately elements of both the external and internal structure are in a poorer condition than originally anticipated and these require remedial works to be carried out as a first stage in the restoration of the Mill. The Council have a statutory responsibility, as owners of the Mill to carry out such works as are necessary to safeguard the structure and fabric of this Grade II Listed Building. These remedial works, once completed, will allow representatives of the Society, Conservation and funding bodies to access the building.

The Society will then be able to appoint specialist Millwright and Architectural advisors to assist us in identifying the scope of the works required to bring Holgate Mill back into operational use. This information is pivotal in furthering the Society's lease negotiations with the Council and in progressing the Heritage Lottery submission.

Steve Potts - committee member - 4 Nov 2002

Continued Growth and Support

Christine Bramwell - Treasurer

Since our last issue of Millnews, our membership has doubled to 87 households, most of which are in the local area, but also include new members in London and New York (only Paris and Rome to come!). A special welcome goes to Mrs Mona Blanchard of Catford, London, who is the great-granddaughter of Joseph Chapman, Holgate - miller from 1876 - 1902. Many thanks too for all the generous donations from members which now total £342.00.

Successful fundraising this year at West Bank Park Summer Fete, T-shirt and badge sales and leaflet delivery by the committee have all helped to swell our funds this autumn. Holgate residents, again have shown their continued support for our project, awarding grants towards the re-painting of the mill and to a feasibility study. With more fundraising events to come (Christmas Fayres and a New Year Barn Dance) It's going to be a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for Holgate Mill.

Visit to SPAB

On the 12 October Christine Bramwell, our Treasurer, and I attended the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) Mills Section meeting at House Mill, Bromley by Bow, London.

It proved to be an enjoyable and informative meeting where we had the opportunity to meet and talk with representatives of Mill Groups from around the country.

The Friends of Upminster Mill are in a similar position to our Society. They have been active for about 18 months and their aspiration is to buy the lease to Upminster Windmill from their local council. Other groups from Hampshire, Kent, and Sussex have already restored mills and so by attending meetings such as this we will be able to learn from them the pitfalls that may lay before us.

Both Christine and I left the meeting with mixed feelings, on the one hand we realised the size and complexity of the undertaking we have in restoring Holgate Windmill but on the other hand we realised that with determination, commitment, and the support of its members, our Society can be successful in its aims.

Brian Lambert (Secretary)

Holgate Windmill Preservation Society	
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Richard Green	
Treasurer	Newsletter design by
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*English Windmill Books:
A snapshot . . .*

Many Books have been written covering all aspects and locations of Windmills. Limited space allows for only a snapshot, but here's hoping it will wet your appetite and further your interest.

1954 "The English Windmill" by Rex Wailes is a must read for those of a serious nature.

1957 "Windmills and Millwrighting" by Stanley Freese and 1933

"Watermills and Windmills" by W Coles-Finch both show their steel.

1936 "Windmills in Sussex" by Peter Hemming is a classic, as is 1949

"The Story of Sprowston Mill" by HC Harrison.

1981 "Essex Windmills and Millwrights" by KG Ferries in 5 volumes and 1966 "Windmills of Surrey and Inner London" (co-author MT Mason) are fully comprehensive.

1923 "Windmills", a most romantic book by the painter Frank Brangwyn and Hayter Preston is enjoyably artistic.

1984 "Norfolk Corn Mills" by H Aplings sets a modern style as does 1989 "Windmills of England", RJ Browns pen & ink drawings being pleasing to the eye.

1931 "The Mills of Man" by George Longs, 1927 R Thurston-Hopkins' "Old English Mills and Inns" and 1931 "In search of English

Windmills" by Stanley Freese are steeped in tradition and folklore. Closer to home is Roy Gregory's 1985 "East Yorkshire Windmills" and Alan Whitworth's "Yorkshire Windmills".

1998 Richard Bennett and John Elton's "History of Corn Milling" set the standard for those who follow.

Richard Green - Vice-chair.

Dates for your Diary . . .

HWPS stalls at Christmas Fayres-

23rd November - Acomb School 11am - 1pm

30th November - Holgate Methodist Church Hall 2pm - 4pm

PLUS - don't miss our BARN DANCE at English Martyrs Church Hall - 25th January 7.30 - 11.00 Only £4.50 per ticket - available from Brian Lambert or Christine Bramwell

HWPS Annual General Meeting on 20th May 2003