

# A Grand Day Out!

On a fine Saturday in early September, 24 HWPS members embarked on a fact finding tour of four windmills. Starting with Skidby Mill in Humberside and going on to Wrawby Mill in north Lincolnshire, Ellis Mill in the centre of Lincoln where everybody enjoyed a pub lunch and much needed rest and finishing at Waltham Mill in the afternoon.

Most of the mills were working (the sails were going round) and it was a superb opportunity to see and hear a mill in action. What surprised us was how quiet the mills were. Outside the only sound to be heard was the gentle creaking coming from the wooden sails - and that was



hard to hear. Inside, when the stones were engaged, there was a rhythmic rumble but that could not be heard outside. All this gave confidence to those of us that live nearest to our mill that they would not be disturbed when the renovations are complete.

The various mill personnel on hand were helpful and pleased to chat, particularly the miller from Wrawby mill who allowed us to push round his post mill (see photo above). All in all it was truly a grand day out!

There will be another trip next year so look out for details.

*Bob Anderton committee member*

*Photography by Paul Hepworth & Christine Bramwell*

## Holgate Windmill Preservation Society

Chairman: Robert Hall Vice-chair: Richard Green  
Treasurer: Christine Bramwell  
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Registered Charity No. 1096303

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Dates for your diary . . . .

19th May 2004 - AGM.  
17th June 2004 - Fundraising  
Social at Bishopthorpe Palace.  
26th June 2004 - Rowntree Park  
Summer Fayre.

# Millnews

Number 4



**Holgate  
Windmill**

**PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

## Millwright's report - full restoration is viable!

*by Steve Potts, committee member*

When the City of York Council completed the safety works to the structure and fabric of the mill in the summer it enabled the Society to have limited access and allowed us to appoint a specialist millwright to look in detail at the restoration task ahead.

After obtaining quotations from three millwright consultants the Society appointed R. Thompson and Son, based in Alford, Lincolnshire to produce a detailed feasibility study. This study had as its basis the Society's restoration aims, "to produce our own flour, grinding grain through our stones by wind power". After meeting with Richard Green and identifying the scope of study the millwright spent a day surveying the mill and taking advantage of the external scaffolding access provided by the City Council.



R. Thompson and Son's report was received in July and confirmed the viability of our restoration aims that Holgate Mill could be returned to full operational use after a comprehensive programme of repair and restoration works costing in the region of £400,000.

With the initial feasibility study completed and access to the mill now possible work has commenced on the production of design drawings showing the current layout and appearance of the mill together with proposals for the restoration of the building including the replacement of sails and fantail. These drawings will form the basis of discussions with City of York planners and the local community prior to a planning application submission hopefully before the end of 2003.

## Opening the door

Now that the City Council have finished their safety work on the interior and exterior of the mill they have allowed the Society access with certain restrictions. The council will not allow us to open the mill on a permanent basis until the lease has been agreed. However committee members have had the opportunity to inspect the interior and the recent council works and to take some photographs (see right and above).

Those members who have been in reported that they were impressed with the quality of the Council's repairs and with the general state of the remaining machinery.



*Internal mill photographs by Tom Lambert*

### *A message from our Vice Chairman . . .*

*A very warm welcome to all our members, those who have just joined and those who have been with us from the beginning. - The beginning - isn't that were we are now!*

*To date we have secured the preservation of the mill as it stands and have made it safe to enter (many thanks to the council) .*

*We have had a Millwright's Feasibility Study carried out and are viewing leasing arrangements currently. A new and exciting internet site [www.holgatewindmill.org](http://www.holgatewindmill.org) has just been launched with excellent links.*



*Above - Our stall at West Bank Park Summer Fayre*

*A successful windmill tour in September to four windmills (see back page) has had a profound effect on all, reaffirming our commitment and increasing our knowledge. The HWPS stall improves with every event, as does (a slight cough) our HWPS talks; the latest being to a local history group.*

*We look forward with enthusiasm and determination to achieving success and longevity for Holgate Windmill.*

*Many thanks for your support - on behalf of the 'Boss' - Robert Hall- on holiday in Australia!*

*Richie Green*

# You can help!

by Brian Lambert - Secretary

We are very lucky that the committee contains some very talented people, however, it would be arrogant of us, as a group, to think we have all the answers. With that in mind we have been fortunate over the last few months to have several guests at committee meetings who have been able to give the Society the benefit of their expertise and knowledge.

In April, Keith Knight, Director of the South Yorkshire Building Preservation Trust, and an architect specialising in the renovation of old buildings, discussed how the Architectural Heritage Fund, and the Association of Preservation Trusts, could be of help and guidance to the Society.

In July, Nick Payne, a local solicitor and a Society member, gave us a very interesting and thought provoking talk on the topics we might like to consider regarding the lease of the Mill from its current owners, the City of York Council.

We were pleased that Councillor Nimmo attended the July meeting to familiarise himself with the Society and its aims.

In August, Mark Hoult and Helen Daniels, both Society members, gave us an enjoyable and enthusiastic presentation of the work in progress on the Society website, which they generously volunteered to design. In fact the website is now up and running and can be viewed on [www.holgatewindmill.org](http://www.holgatewindmill.org) and it is well worth a visit.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the above-mentioned people for the time they took to help the Society.

We currently have approximately 150 members and it may be some of you have an expertise or knowledge that could have a real benefit to the Society.

If you think you have anything to offer please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at 2, Murray Street, Holgate, York tel.799295.

## [www.holgatewindmill.org](http://www.holgatewindmill.org)

### Society Website

The official Holgate Windmill Preservation Society website has now gone live.

Check out [www.holgatewindmill.org](http://www.holgatewindmill.org) for all the up to date information on the progress of the society. Read all about the history of Holgate windmill, the technical details of how it functions and what's in the archive.

There are back issues of "Millnews" to download, pages on how you can help, other useful links and, of course, the shop!

Please fill in the guestbook with your comments and look at the historic pictures and photos of the windmill in its full glory.

The site will be updated at regular intervals so keep checking for news. If anyone has any information they would like putting on the website, please let us know.

Don't forget, [www.holgatewindmill.org](http://www.holgatewindmill.org). Tell all your family and friends!

*Mark Hoult and Helen Daniels*  
(email: [maw\\_hoult@yahoo.com](mailto:maw_hoult@yahoo.com))



### FLORAL FUNDRAISING

We propose to have a pleasurable afternoon on a Saturday or Sunday next July – wandering round gardens and yards of HWPS members who live within walking distance of the Windmill. (Entry by ticket for HWPS Members and friends)

Would YOU be willing to open YOUR garden and share the pleasure of your pots and planters or your beds and lawns or your weeds and wilderness? Any garden would be a delight to visit; and a fun way of raising money and building friendships – don't forget .....

"From small acorns...."

**Please contact: Jen Hay 39 St Swithins Walk Tel 792638**

# YORK WINDMILLS *by Vice Chairman Richard Green*

**T**he HWPS is of course primarily concerned with the restoration of Holgate Windmill, a task which will, no doubt, keep us busy for many years.

We do, though, have many other aims, one of which is to learn more about other York windmills.

As the late David Lodge so succinctly put it in his book about Holgate Windmill - "The Last of a Circle" you will understand that history has not been kind to the rest of York's mills.

However help is at hand. Alan Whitworth's *Tykes Towers* and *Yorkshire Windmills* along with Roy Gregory's book *East Yorkshire*

*Windmills* have paved the way for us indicating at least 20 windmills in and around York at one time or another.

HWPS archives have precious few photographs or drawings/paintings of these other windmills even though there have been many articles written about them: archaeological surveys, newspapers, *The Dalesman* etc.

Sadly most of these grinders of grain have long since disappeared without trace beneath brick or plough. If you can assist us with any information about these windmills, please contact me on 01904 797165 or write to 29 Windmill Rise, Holgate, York YO26 4TU.

Burton Stone Lane Windmill



## Christmas is coming. . . .

. . . and there is the dreaded 'Present List' to compile! Don't forget HWPS has one or two little stocking fillers for your heritage minded friends and relations. All profits go to the mill.



We have a limited number of T-shirts left - phone for sizes - at £6.00 each and our ever popular badges are just 50p. Call Brian Lambert on 01904 799295 - evenings only, to place an order.



We have framed copies of the watercolour painting of the mill for £20.00 or unframed for £8.00.

Notelets with envelopes depicting the same scene are £2.50 for 10, and below is our 'hot off the press' full colour booklet on the history of the mill - only £1.50 per copy

