



Friends of
**Upminster
Windmill**

Newsletter March 2016

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Friends of Upminster Windmill

is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) managing the windmill on behalf of the London Borough of Havering.

Chairman: Dennis Coombs

Vice-Chairman: Martin Withers

Secretary: Paul Sainsbury

Membership Secretary: Ian Ross

Treasurer: Jean Webb

Web Master: Neil Morley **Community Engmt. Officer:** Gemma Smith

Telephone: 0300 030 1803

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Website: <http://www.upminsterwindmill.org>



Visiting

The mill is now closed to the public as construction work on the Visitor Centre has started, and renovation of the mill is scheduled to commence in April. Work will last until 2018, from when the mill will re-open for everyone to enjoy as a fine example of an English Smock Mill. The new Visitor Centre is, we hope, likely to open in 2017, but we will keep you informed accordingly.

Sometime in late April or May there will be a unique opportunity to see the cap and sails dismantled ready for transporting to the millwright's works for renovation. This should be a spectacular sight, so we will keep you posted about the dates concerned via our website. See Dennis' article, p5.



Diary notes

Weds 13 April, 2.30pm – Coffee Afternoon at the Old Chapel.

Friday 15 April, 11am – Upminster Library, Community Update on Upminster Windmill.

Mon 25 April, 7.30pm - AGM at the Old Chapel, St Marys Lane.

Weds 18 May, 2.30pm – Coffee Afternoon at the Old Chapel. The Friends of the Windmill Gardens from Brixton Windmill will be giving a talk.

23 April to 28 May - Exhibition *Upminster Windmill Through Time and Archaeology* at Havering Museum, High Street, Romford .

A NEW EXHIBITION

Upminster Windmill

Through Time and Archaeology

A look at Upminster's windmill from the past to the future.

23 April ~ 28 May 2016

19-21 High Street, Romford, RM1 1JU
Tel: 01708 746571
Web: www.haveringmuseum.org.uk
Email: exhibitions@haveringmuseum.org.uk

Open Wednesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm (Last Admission 4.30pm)
Last Admission to Gallery at 4.30pm and 4.45pm
PLEASE TELEPHONE FOR GOVERNMENT ACCESS TIMES.

Havering Museum
Registered Charity No. 101763

Dennis Reports

Education and Training Centre

Work is now underway on the building of the new Education and Training Centre. The contractor (Bolt & Heeks Limited) started work on 25 January 2016. Within three weeks the ground had been cleared and levelled and the foundations had been laid and by 25 February the floor structure was in place. The structural work is expected to take about six months.



14 February 2016: Photograph of the groundworks



25 February 2016: Floor structure completed

Restoration of the Mill

The contract to restore the windmill has been awarded to Bertus Dijkstra, a Dutch millwrighting company based in Sloten in the Netherlands. This followed a competitive tendering exercise.

The millwright, Willem Dijkstra, is very experienced and familiar with English

mills. He has worked with English millwrights, including Paul Kemp and the late Vincent Pargeter, both of whom have every confidence in Willem's abilities. Indeed they both helped Willem to put the tender documents together. We reported Vincent's untimely death in our last newsletter which was a particular shock as he had visited Upminster Windmill with Willem shortly beforehand and was looking forward to seeing our restoration get underway.

Along with Nigel Oxley (the Council's Historic Buildings Officer) and Luke Bonwick (our project millwrighting consultant) I visited Bertus Dijkstra's workshop in Sloten. We also visited a windmill maintained by Dijkstra. We were all impressed by what we saw and have had no doubts about Dijkstra's ability to deliver a first class restoration at Upminster.

Examples of Dijkstra's work can be found at www.bertusdijkstra.nl



The large and impressive workshop of Bertus Dijkstra in Sloten in which entire sub-assemblies can be restored and pre-assembled



Just a few of the many excellent machines and tools available to Willem



Willem working on one of his many commissions - the windmill at Motefiore, Jerusalem

Willem is expected to start work on the site on 25 April 2016. The first task will be to remove the sails and fantail and dismantle the cap. The weatherboarding will be removed from the cap and the components dismantled individually. They will be transported to Sloten for refurbishment in the workshop.

Members may wish to see the sails and fantail dismantled. Our aim is to publish the precise dates on our website as soon as possible though some of the tasks are weather dependent so this may not prove reliable.

We will keep our website updated with news and pictures.

Friends of Upminster Windmill – NOTICE OF AGM

Our next AGM will be held on Monday 25 April 2016 at the Old Chapel, St Mary's Lane, Upminster starting at 7:30pm.

Strictly speaking, this will be the first annual general meeting of our new charitable incorporated organisation, which has been established following agreement of the members to merge the former Friends' organisation and Upminster Windmill Preservation Trust into a single organisation.

Members will be asked to approve our new constitution which follows guidance issued by the Charity Commission and has been approved by them. A copy of the new constitution can be viewed on our website at www.upminsterwindmill.org.

Members will also be asked to appoint the trustees to serve for the following year. The existing trustees are all standing for election and you are asked to give them your support. If any other member wishes to stand for election will they please notify the chair (chairman@upminsterwindmill.co.uk) as soon as possible so that members can vote for them if they choose.

We are also seeking an additional trustee with marketing and fund raising experience. If you are interested please email the chairman at the above address.

The agenda for the meeting will be:

- (1) Welcome
- (2) Minutes of the AGM of the Friends of Upminster Windmill held on 17 September 2015

- (3) Matters arising
- (4) Report on activities during 2015/16
- (5) Chairman's report
- (6) Financial report
- (7) The new constitution – members will be asked to adopt the constitution.
- (8) Appointment of trustees – members will be asked to reappoint the existing trustees:
 - Andrew Conway
 - Dennis Coombs
 - Linda Hawthorn
 - Paul Kemp
 - John Reed
 - Neil Morley
 - Alison Taffs
 - Keith Wilkinson
 - Martin Withers

After a break for refreshments, there will be some informal presentations covering aspects of the restoration programme and related issues, including a display of some of our latest graphics.

Payments by Standing Order

Members who pay their membership fees by standing order will need to amend the instructions to their banks as our new charitable incorporated organisation has a new bank account.

This can be done in a number of ways:

(1) Members who use internet banking

The most straightforward way for members with internet banking is to simply change the payment instructions on line. In future, payments (£7 for single members and £10 for family members) should be made on 1 April each year to:

Name: Friends of Upminster Windmill
Bank: CAF Bank Ltd
Sort Code: 40-52-40
Account: 00027687

(2) **Members without internet banking**

Members without internet banking can revise the instructions to their bank in writing. We have developed a suitable form to make this straightforward.

- Those members currently paying by standing order for whom we hold an email address will have received an electronic copy of the form.
- Other members currently paying by standing order will find a copy of the form in the envelope with this newsletter.

Please return the completed forms to our treasurer (Jean Webb, 2 Fairkytes Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 1XS) as soon as possible.

Electronic Distribution of our Newsletter

To save printing and distribution costs, we propose to adopt email as the normal distribution method for our newsletters. This also has the advantage of speed so we will be able to update members more often and more quickly.

- Those members already receiving their newsletter by email will continue to do so.
- Other members for whom we hold email addresses will receive both electronic and paper versions of this newsletter. Unless you contact us and explain any difficulty, future editions will be electronic.
- Members for whom we do not hold an email address will continue to receive paper versions but please notify our membership secretary (Ian Ross) by email if you are willing to switch to the electronic version. Ian can be contacted at membership@upminsterwindmill.co.uk.

New digital images

The introduction and use of 3D graphics by FUW as a powerful information resource has proved an unqualified success, and improvements in the quality of work and use of innovative technology continues. One aspect of using 3D models that has, however, eluded us until now has been the ability to display

them in a fully interactive form on the internet. Thanks to research by our backroom team (Jonathan Green and Cliff Featherston) this is now possible.

Displaying 3D models on the internet requires a specialist hosting service with the advanced capabilities to do so. Of the services available a leader in this field is Sketchfab. They currently have an initiative directed towards Museums and Cultural Heritage Organisations, and they have generously sponsored us with a full business account. We are classified as a museum there and are amongst some pedigree companies who use Sketchfab including, The British Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Maritime Archaeological Trust, and many others worldwide.

The aim is to link our models on Sketchfab to FUW's website so you can access them there, but until that is done you can find them at: sketchfab.com/upminsterwindmill. There are just a few models uploaded at present as it is a complex process to prepare them for Sketchfab, but given time many more will be added.

When you go to the web page above you will reach our account home page. There you will see our catalogue of models. Click on any one to load it for display. Whilst loading a circular progress indicator is shown, and once that has completed a narrow, blue, progress bar will appear across the top of the model window as the special viewer is loaded – wait for this to complete. The viewing window can be expanded to full screen size.

With the model fully loaded you can use your mouse to manipulate the view:

- Left Click and drag to orbit the model in any direction (it orbits about the cursor position where you clicked, so best to start in the middle of the screen).
- Shift + Left click and drag to Pan left/right/up/down, or alternatively click down on the scroll wheel and drag.
- Scroll wheel zooms the view in and out.

Some models have numbered annotations pinned to features within the model. Clicking on a number reveals information about the feature. At the bottom right of the viewing window is an icon similar to a light bulb. Clicking this menu lists the annotations available and you can click on any item in the

list to automatically revolve the model to the specific scene that relates to that annotation. There is also a facility in the menu to hide the annotation numbers so they do not sully the view.

When you have done viewing a particular model, click the 'View Profile' button in the top right of the screen to return to the home page and catalogue of models.

Mill House Basement



by Friends of Upmins **PRO**

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ABOUT THIS MODEL

Model by Jonathan Green.
Basement of the former mill house. This has now been filled in and will unlikely ever be seen again, except in photos and this model.
Date of demolition of all mill related buildings.....1960
Excavation of the Millers House commences.....April 2011
Excavation of the Basement commences.....September 2011
Excavation of the Basement completed.....September 2012
Average number of volunteers working 1 day a week.....4
All demolition rubble removed by hand, except a small amount removed by mechanical digger for safety reasons.
Volume removed.....approximately 118 cubic metres

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Published a week ago

Dennis Coombs



Gemma Reports

It has been a great first few months in the new post. The pop-up banner display is now complete, and I have organised for several local sites to host it throughout 2016. The banners give a short overview of the work going on at the site and the plans for the future. The first port of call for it will be Upminster Library; I will also be giving a talk there about the history of the Windmill and the restoration on 15th April. I plan to go to most of the Havering Libraries during the year to give community updates and keep the Windmill in people's minds.

On Wednesday 24 February the second Coffee Afternoon took place at the Old Chapel. It was a good opportunity to get together but there was also an update on the developments with the project, and the banners were also on display. Other Coffee Afternoons are scheduled for Wednesday 13 April at 2.30pm and Wednesday 18 May at 2.30pm. In May 'The Friends of the Windmill Gardens', from Brixton Windmill, will be giving a talk about the restoration of Brixton Windmill. This year is the Windmill's 200th Anniversary.



In January I was able to meet the Trustees of the Friends of Upminster Windmill. I'm looking forward to working with them to develop the interpretation for the Visitor Centre. One of the most interesting elements for me over the last few months has been exploring the archive of photos and other material about the mill. There is great potential to create an engaging and fun visitor experience as well as informative education sessions for schools. I will also work with them when volunteer recruitment and training starts.

Once the new Visitor Centre is open and the Windmill is fully restored we will need a lot more volunteers. I am a member of the Havering Volunteer Managers' Forum and recently attended a meeting. They have a new Volunteer Centre opening in Romford; they act as brokers between organisations and people that want to volunteer. When the time comes I will be working closely with the Centre to advertise roles. It is also a good opportunity to network, share events and keep people informed about our project.

Gemma Smith



Archaeology Group Update

Even though it is winter and the building of the Visitor Centre has started the archaeology rumbles on. The exploration of the pond that fed the steam mill has had to remain on hold, so we have revisited previously worked area. Our efforts have been concentrated on excavating the 'forge' adjoining the stables, and in cleaning and redefining the mill cottage foundations and surrounding grounds.

The work in the forge has uncovered a possible brick ledge that may have supported floor joists. We have also discovered what we think is some of the timber flooring still in-situ. If this proves to be the case, then there must have been a means of reinforcing the floor in the area of the anvil to give additional support. This we hope to discover as we continue to explore. Various pieces of pottery, glass and tile have been recovered.

On the cottage site we have been re-clearing the foundation walls to give them better definition, starting at the front door and porch area and working along to the eastern side of the cottage. Whilst clearing debris from the southeastern corner we uncovered an area that looks like an outside cupboard, but has no flooring. Deliberations as to its purpose are ongoing.

When eventually we are able to return to investigating the pond and the area surrounding we are interested in a feature shown on a sketch plan in the 1859 conveyance indenture relating to the sale of the mill to Thomas Abraham. This shows what appears to be a clearly defined lagoon, rather than a simple pond, where the watercourse feeding into the mill site terminated close to the steam mill. The 1885 and 1897 editions of the Ordnance Survey map also outline a shape similar to that marked on the indenture plan, yet in early photographs there is nothing to be seen, just a level yard and trackway.

Our preliminary excavations of the pond area have revealed sloping brickwork like a revetment, suggesting that if there had been a lagoon it had been a fully engineered, brick lined structure. Speculation is that it did exist, but in late Victorian times it was filled in to provide space for the coal yard and cart tracts, with a well being dug as a replacement supply for the steam mill.

We will continue the archaeology when and where we are able, only subject to the constraints of the restoration project, and will keep you updated on our progress.

Paul Sainsbury



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