

UPMINSTER WINDMILL NEWS JULY 2015

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Where sold



Friends of Upminster Windmill

Registered Charity Number 1097976

www.upminsterwindmill.co.uk

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IMPORTANT AGM
Sept 17th
See p.4

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Message from the Chairman

The pace of the restoration is quickening. The final design of the new building has been agreed and the tender documents are being prepared by the Quantity Surveyor. The documents are expected to be issued in early August with a deadline for responses about a month later. Provided a suitable contractor is found, and the price is within budget, then we should see the work starting a few weeks later. Completion of the new building is expected during summer 2016.

The tendering process for the work to restore the Mill will be running simultaneously. If this goes to plan, the cap and sails will be removed in the autumn. This will be followed, in the early spring, by the removal of the external gallery and the scaffolding of the Mill to allow the structure to be restored.

The Mill will be closed to the public after London Open House weekend on 19/20 September 2015. It will not reopen until 2018 by which time it will be in working order. When the new building is available next year, we will be able to show many facets of the Mill and its history through the use of presentation material.

We will continue to need volunteers throughout the period. The archaeology will continue. We will be playing an active role in the restoration and will need people with carpentry or similar practical skills (or a willingness to learn). We will improve the grounds around the exposed foundations of the former buildings and, once the new building is complete, plant and maintain the gardens. The Education Centre will require stewards, guides and general assistants, for example to help with the sale of memorabilia. If you would like to help with any of these please contact me at chairman@upminsterwindmill.co.uk.

The next item in this newsletter announces our forthcoming AGM and explains how we intend to streamline and modernise our organisational structure. This will make life easier for those of us

managing the administration. The AGM will also provide us with an opportunity to show the incredible range of work undertaken by our volunteers. Please attend and give your support.

Streamlining our organisation and Notice of our AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Thursday 17 September 2015 at 7:30pm in The Old Chapel, St Marys Lane, Upminster.

The Friends of Upminster Windmill was one of two organisations set up in 2003. Upminster Windmill Preservation Trust would develop the restoration plans, raise the necessary funds and manage the restoration project. The Friends of Upminster Windmill would open the Mill to the public and carry out general maintenance.

The successful planning of the restoration and securing of the funding means that the work of the Trust is largely complete and we will not need two separate organisations in the future.

At the same time, the government has introduced legal changes to simplify the administration of small charities and we have the opportunity to streamline our organisation and administration. The new arrangements apply to organisations registered as Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs).

Our proposal is that we merge the Trust and the Friends into a single organisation that is a CIO. For legal reasons the route to achieving this is to create a new CIO and close the two existing organisations.

We have already taken the first steps. The new CIO has been established using our existing name Friends of Upminster Windmill. We now need to close the existing Friends and transfer the assets to the new one. This will include transferring the membership. This means that as far as our membership is concerned, the administrative changes will be invisible. There are no plans to change subscription levels or similar features. However, in due

course, we will invite those members who pay by standing order to change their bank mandate. We will supply new forms for this.

Our constitution requires a specific motion to be put to the AGM, which must be supported by a two-thirds majority of those present. The motion is:

- This meeting agrees that the Friends of Upminster Windmill (registered charity number 1097976) shall be closed and its assets shall be transferred to the Friends of Upminster Windmill (registered charity number 1162180).

The agenda for the AGM will include:

1. Welcome and members attending
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of AGM 2014
4. Matters arising from the last minutes
5. Report on activities 2014/2015
6. Treasurer's report and approval of accounts for 2014/2015
7. Indicative accounts for 2015/2016 to point of closure
8. Chairman's report
9. Motion of closure (as set out above).
10. AOB

Note: The new CIO has been set up with the trustees of Upminster Windmill Preservation Trust appointed as the trustees. A constitution has been adopted following best practice guidance published by the Charity Commission. Members will get a chance to re-elect or change these trustees, and to vote on the new constitution, at the first AGM of the new CIO. The aim is to hold this in May 2016.

The formal agenda for the September AGM will be followed by one or more presentations showing our plans for the future and the progress we are making.

Back to the Future

For the third year, we have worked with Essex Outdoor Cinema to host two events on the Mill field. Essex Outdoor Cinema organises and manages the events though we supply volunteers to help stewarding. In return we receive a donation for every ticket sold. This has proved a lucrative source of income and a significant factor in managing and maintaining the Mill.

The latest event was the showing of Back to the Future on 4 July. Over 480 tickets were pre-sold. It was a beautiful evening and many families or groups of friends assembled on the field to enjoy their picnics and watch the film. The highlight was the arrival of a DeLorean car which the local owner allowed to be parked in front of the Mill throughout the evening.



Photograph by Andrew Conway

It is difficult to describe the wonderful ambience created by these events and, even more so, to explain the delights of people young

and old who queued patiently for a turn to sit in the car and be photographed. As the sky darkened, the lights within the Mill created a wonderful backdrop, serene and beautiful yet powerful and majestic.

Unfortunately, due to a small number of people complaining about the noise, the Council has withdrawn its consent for future events and the one planned for 8 August has been cancelled.

Our volunteers were there throughout the evening and at no time considered the noise to be excessive. And it is for just two nights a year. It is extremely regrettable that a very small minority of people have caused disappointment to the many hundreds who welcome and support these events whilst at the same time are helping us to fund the protection of their heritage.

We are grateful to Essex Outdoor Cinema for working with us to bring these events to Upminster, for managing them so professionally and for helping us to maintain the Mill. The loss of funds is significant. We will continue to raise this issue with the Council in the hope that the decision can be reversed. Please support us by protesting to the Council, making it clear that you are complaining about the financial implications for the Friends of Upminster Windmill. This can be done in writing or online at www.havering.gov.uk/complaints.

DC

Open Days remaining in 2015

August 1st, 2nd, and 15th, 16th

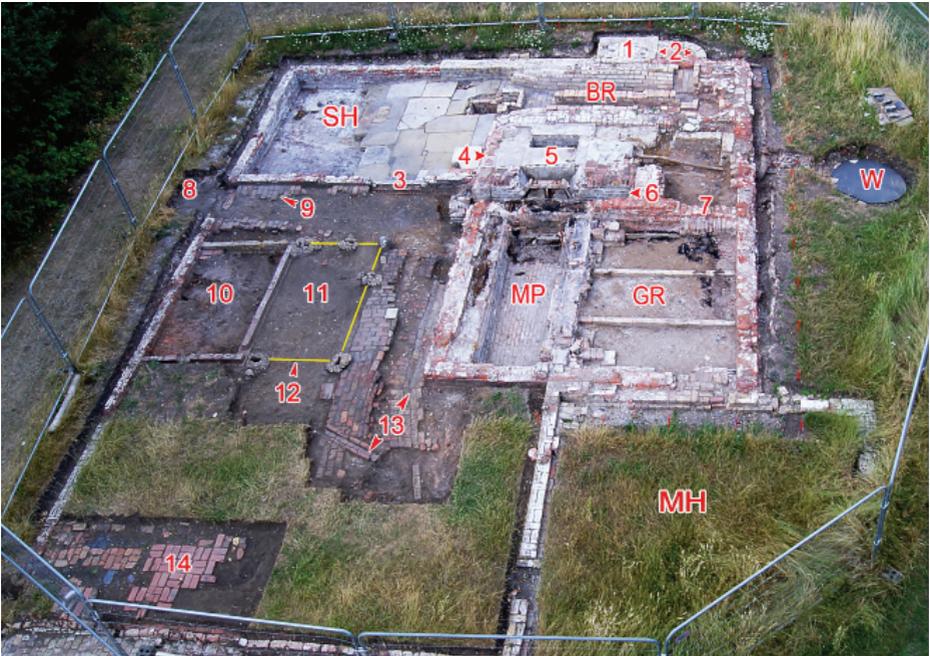
September 5th, 6th (plus see note below)

For the above dates the mill will be open from 2.00pm until 5.00pm

September 19th and 20th is the last weekend opening in 2015 when on those days the mill will be open from Noon until 5.00pm as part of the London Open House weekend.

Archaeology Report

We continue to work on the steam mill site, mainly in the pig court area. Progress is slow due to the dry weather conditions, the ground is very dry and hard, which means we need extra care in excavating in case we damage any finds. We have found various gullies around the pig courts and also the concrete post holes which supported the fencing keeping the pigs enclosed.



BR Boiler Room. **GR** Grinding Room. **MH** Meal House. **MP** Machinery Pit.
SH Stoke House. **W** Well.

1 Chimney. 2 Flue. 3 Doorway. 4 Doorway. 5 Engine plinth. 6 Flywheel pit.
7 Doorway. 8 Road level. 9 Gully. 10 Pig sty. 11 Pig court.
12 Probable line of fencing. 13 Gullies. 14 Pig sty.

The well has been excavated, although we have left approximately 24 inches of clay at the bottom, as we are unsure at this stage of the stability of the well floor. The well is 10 ½ feet deep with a solid brick floor, which was loose laid to allow water to permeate up from the water table. There is water in the well, and continues to find its own level (therefore indicating the water table level).



This photo shows the well after it has been bailed out. Within a few hours the water returned to several feet deep. The pipe connected to a pump in the engine cistern.

Unfortunately there are no logs on the BGS (British Geological Survey) website to indicate the presence of wells on the windmill site, however the windmill does sit on the bed of the River Thames, which was moved from its entry point near Clacton-on-Sea to its present position, when the Anglian glacier made its way down between 430,000 and 350,000 years ago, ending in Hornchurch (Emerson Park area).

We have also located the road level, which is 12 inches below the current ground level. This is the road that ran from the Windmill up past the Millers House and Mill Cottage and ended at the stables.



The bottom of this test pit shows the original road level. The road ran level between the windmill and Stoke House, then sloped up to the Stable, about a foot above.

We had a site meeting on the 12th June with representatives from Historic England, the Greater London Archaeology Advice Service (GLAAS), and Scheduled Ancient Monuments, regarding the preservation of the steam mill, which has been deemed to be of international importance by the International Static Steam Engine Society (ISSES). These representatives appear to have been impressed with what they saw, and we now await their recommendations.

Paul

Millstone Folklore

Millstones were not always taken out of service simply because they had worn thin or broken, but in the days when people allowed their lives to be ruled more by superstitions than sense, a millstone may be discarded because it was considered unlucky or evil.

Typically a millstone weighs $1\frac{1}{3}$ tons. Until the 1700's when cranes were introduced to lift and turn them over for redressing, the operation was done by brute force using wedges and levers. This often resulted in injuries that were sometimes fatal.

A superstition was held that if a millstone had seriously hurt or killed someone it was like a wild animal that had tasted blood and was waiting to do the same again at the first opportunity. The stone was therefore removed and used as a tombstone for anyone it had killed, or used as a doorstep in the belief that people passing over it would walk the evil away.

Do you know of any such millstone doorsteps? Please take a photo if you find one.

Art Exhibition

In June FUW participated in the Havering Arts Festival by mounting an exhibition at the Old Chapel of its digital images. This event was a first of its type for FUW, so was kept as a simple display of prints and screening by projector and monitor of images and graphics.

Many of the photographs in our archive are old and irreplaceable, so little-by-little these are being restored, with several hundred still awaiting treatment. In the exhibition before and after restoration versions of pictures were displayed for comparison, with the techniques employed in such work being demonstrated.

FUW are very much to the fore in its use of modern digital graphics in all aspects of its work, especially 3D modelling and its derived images. At the exhibition a great deal of interest was taken in Jonathan Green's use of photo texturing to give realism to 3D

models and he was in much demand to demonstrate his work.

Additional displays and demonstrations at the exhibition were of anaglyphs (stereoscopic images), interactive panoramas, archiving, and graphics used for research and in technical interpretation. Below are a few examples of image restoration.



This faded portrait of Florence Abraham, niece of Alfred, responded well to simple techniques of restoration and enhancement.

Unfortunately many of the more historically important photographs are in very poor condition, decayed and damaged to a point close to no redemption. These require many hours of work using multiple processes to retrieve a viewable image. Colour tinting the result of some restorations is, of course, not essential, but apart from adding an aesthetic touch it serves to improve visual contrast between objects of similar tone.



Wantze Bridge c1885-90



The Mill Field c1890



A glass plate c1900. Such plates were not true prints, but negatives painted black on the back to giving the impression of a positive image.

Cliff Featherston

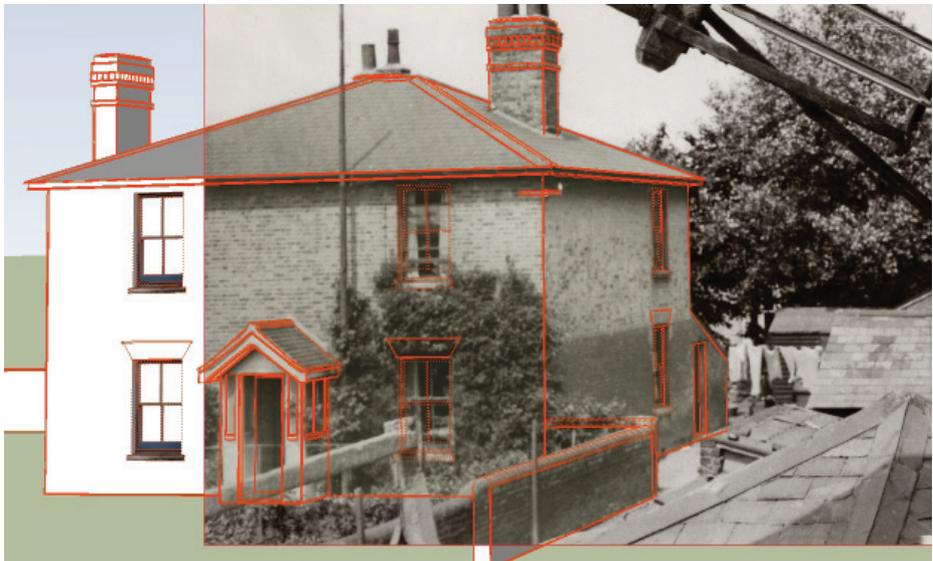


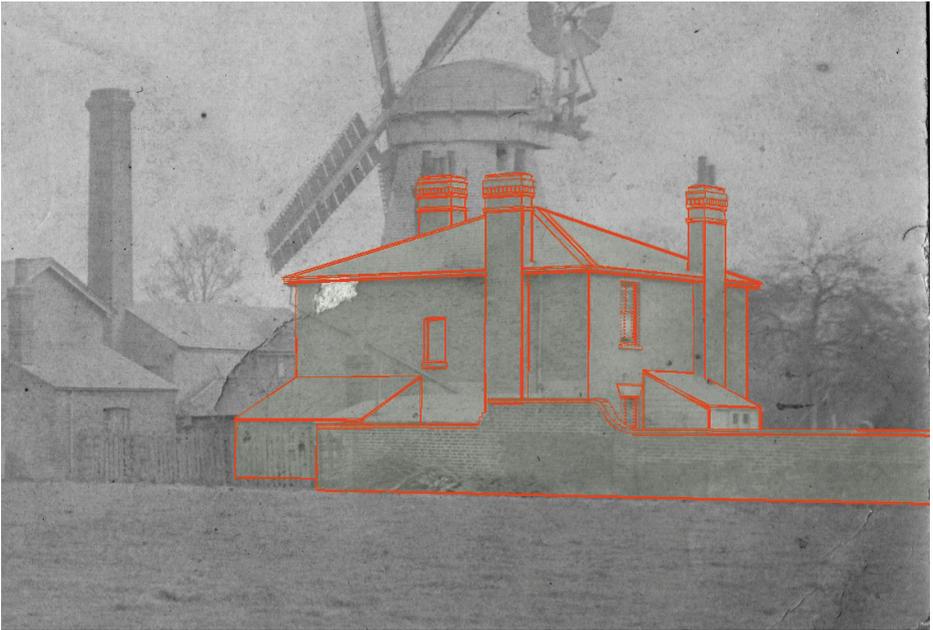
An Insight into Digital Model Making by Jonathan Green

Many of you will have seen the numerous old photographs in the FUW archive that show us the buildings that once existed on the mill estate, which included the mill house, cottage, steam mill and other outbuildings. These photos, coupled with actual measurements from the site archaeology, allow accurate models to be produced that are very closely matched to the original photos.

The cottage is the most recent addition to my site model, and was constructed using the technique of photo matching to provide precision in form and detail.

Below are images showing two different photographic views that have been set up in the modelling software. A single basic model has been produced that matches the outlines of the most important details that can be made out in these photos.





The setting up of the software for photo matching is a tricky process, but one which must be done carefully before adding in any detailing.

Firstly, it helps to know the plan dimensions of a building. A simple box is made to these dimensions, and the view and perspective of this box is set to match the camera position and focal length seen in each photo. Once this has been achieved, it is then possible to add further details with precision, resulting in a model that is very accurate. It is possible to test this by adding in other photos shot from different angles, and seeing that the position of details, as viewed in those shots, correspond and confirm matching accuracy.

Once enough details have been added, the model is imported into the main site model for texturing. Texturing involves finding or producing images that are a match to colour the model. Given that the original photos are black and white, there will be some speculation as to whether the colours and tones used are correct, but research is done in an effort to ensure that these are as authentic as possible.

The final, full colour image of the cottage is the result of many hours of work. Combined with all other buildings in the main model, the scene is now becoming ever more convincing in its realism.



Looking North along the roadway from outside the Coal Office



The West side of the site as it may have looked in the 1920's

