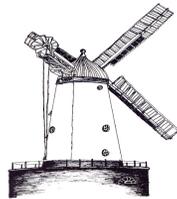


Stone Cross Mill Trust Newsletter March 2019
Issue No 68 Charity Registration No 117278



Dear Members

Welcome to the latest edition of the Stone Cross Windmill newsletter. Enclosed is a copy of membership forms for renewal in March. Last year's membership was reduced. Therefore in order to try and sustain income the Trustees have reluctantly agreed to increase membership money as follows-Single membership £7, dual partnership £10, single life membership £60, dual life membership £100, **NEW** family membership 2 adults and up to 3 children under 16 **ONLY** £12. If you know of anyone who would like to join please contact the chair so that forms can be issued. The 100 club is also another source of income and only costs £12 per year. Members generous donations have helped to soften the loss of income. The volunteer maintenance team work tirelessly ensuring that the Windmill is in excellent working order. The dedicated cake and bread makers always supply these goodies at our fund raising events. If you have any enquiries, if you know of a group who would like a private tour followed by cream tea and cakes or help with the maintenance of the windmill please do not hesitate to contact me on 01323 483 470 email scmt2012@yahoo.co.uk. Page 3 & 4 contains details of a planning application that could effect the long term life of the windmill. The website www.stonecrosswindmill.co.uk has further information about the Windmill.

YOUR SUPPORT ON PLANNING APPLICATION WD/2018/2034/F Construction of a Two Storey House in the field directly in front of Stone Cross Windmill

Many of our members will have received an email from the Trust detailing the above application. The Trust is grateful to the members who have written to Wealden District Council (WDC) objecting to the proposed house in the field directly behind the back hedge of the Windmill. There is still time to send a letter to WDC objecting to this development (all responses to WDC by 19 March). Historic England and the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings made some interesting and valuable statements when asked to comment on a previous development next to the Stone Cross Windmill. These still hold true in relationship to the above development and if this goes ahead it will mean the rural landscape where the Windmill has stood for over 100 years is now surrounded by housing on all sides.

Stone Cross Mill Trust strongly objects to this most unwelcome and ill-considered planning application on the grounds of:

1. Failure to recognise that this is a fully restored working Windmill – only one of a few that still exist to mill flour
2. Failure to acknowledge the close proximity of the proposed 2 storey house to the Windmill
3. Failure to ensure that the sweeps continue to rotate by the power of the wind and mill flour
4. Concerns that more houses will be built on the field facing the Windmill once planning permission has been given for this proposed house
5. Loss of the rural environment that surrounds the Windmill
6. Loss of income as this working Windmill will no longer be able to operate and attract visitors
7. The need to preserve the Windmill so that it continues to operate - one of its main objectives of the constitution

8. Previous Planning conditions that only permitted one storey houses in close proximity to the Windmill
9. The erosion of wider setting of the Windmill by surrounding later housing developments in its immediate setting
10. The close proximity of earlier housing developments that has eroded the setting of the Windmill and restrict wind flow
11. The need for the Windmill to retain a visual connection with the rural surroundings and remain a dominant feature in the landscape

This is based upon the following statements and documents from a number of organisations and observations made by the Trustees

Historic England has previously provided comments on the outline application for an adjacent site which still holds true. Historic England stated the following:

“We recognise that there will be wider planning considerations relating to this application, but we repeat our previous comments relating to the likely effects of the proposed development on the setting of the grade II* listed Stone Cross Windmill, a fine example of a brick tower mill of 1876-7.”

“The mill is significant for its aesthetic values as an historic landscape feature in an elevated position within the wider landscape and its historic value in illustrating the farming processes of the 19th century. While the wider setting of the mill has been eroded by later housing development, in its immediate setting it retains a visual connection with the rural surroundings, and is a dominant feature in the landscape. Preserving the mill’s prominence in its setting is not only an important aesthetic objective, but is also necessary so that it remains possible to demonstrate how the mill operated by ensuring that the sweeps can continue to rotate by the power of the wind.“In line with our previous comments, we acknowledge the reduced legibility of the rural landscape due to recent housing development, and feel that the retention of a natural landscaped buffer to the east of the mill is essential to protect, as far as possible, the appreciation and understanding of the mill as an agricultural buildings and its former relationship with the wider countryside.

Previous advice from the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings

Similar to the Historic England advice above the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings have also written in response to previous development proposals near the Windmill “If operability is reduced or lost, the attraction of the mill to future owners is seriously affected. Ultimately, in the case of listed buildings, the burden of maintenance and repair will fall on the public purse if the mill’s ability to operate is impaired.”

“Working mills attract many more visitors than non-working ones. This is a matter of common experience, and, alongside the sale of flour, visitors provide a major source of income. In particular, locals will come regularly to “their” mill both for flour sales and for the experience, and working mills usually build up a following of supporters and volunteers from within their communities.” Indeed this is the case at Stone Cross – we all love our Windmill. With the small numbers of windmills still in an operable state, it behoves us to be careful about preserving the wind flow in the vicinity of the mills that remain. Stone Cross windmill stands in an area which has already been the subject of extensive building in what were formerly open fields. There is just the one remaining field that exists in its vicinity, and it is now proposed to build a new two storey house on that field. With the likelihood that if planning permission is granted the rest of the field will eventually be covered with housing and maybe even fast growing garden trees. For the foregoing reasons I wish to strongly object to this most unwelcome and ill-considered planning application. In fact we as a society should be doing more to protect our “Particularly important building of more than special interest” to enable it to continue to keep functioning as a working Windmill for the sake of future generations. Letters objecting to this development can be sent/emailed to Wealden District Council.

100 Club Winners February 2018-January 2019

Date 2018	1st	2nd	3rd
Feb	Miss Smallbone	Mr D Baker	Mrs C Orr
March	Mrs Smith	Miss LA Smallbone	Mrs Carpenter
April	Mr Poynter	Mrs M Bell	Mrs E Birch
May	Mrs Crittenden	Mrs P Marman	Mr MR Dalloway
June	Mr Mrs Robinson	Mr A Boniface	Mrs M Bell
July	Miss J Humphrey	Mrs B Smith	Mrs E Birch
August	Mrs D Slaughter	Mr M Webster	Mr Mrs Robinson
Sept	Mrs A Manuel	Miss LA Smallbone	Mrs P Marman
Oct	Mr Mrs Coulstock	Mr & Mrs Gibbs	Mr MR Dalloway
Nov	Mrs R Plumley	Mr A Boniface	Mrs BM Smith
Dec	Mr A Orr	Mrs C Orr	Mr & Mrs Francis
2019 Jan	Mrs JE Dalloway	Mr M Webster	Mrs BM Smith

DATE & EVENT for 2019	VENUE	TIME
Saturday 9 March Tombola	Langney Centre	9-12
Thursday 14 March Information and Social Evening	Windmill	7pm
SUNDAY 7 APRIL WINDMILL OPENS	Windmill	2-5pm
Saturday 13 April Coffee and Cake Morning	Westham Village Hall	10-12
Monday 6 May early Bank Holiday	Windmill	2-4pm
Saturday 11, Sunday 12 May National Mills Weekend	Windmill	10-4pm each day
Monday 27 May Spring Bank Holiday	Windmill	2-4pm
Saturday June 8 Tombola	Beacon Centre	9-12
Saturday 22 June Summer Fair	Westham Village Hall	10-12
Monday 26 August Bank Holiday	Windmill	2-4pm
Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 September Heritage Weekend	Windmill	10-4pm each day
Sunday 13 October Harvest Festival	Windmill	3-4pm
Saturday 2 November Tombola	Langney Shopping Centre	9-12
Saturday 23 November Winter Fair	Westham Village Hall	10-12
Sunday 8 December Carol Service	St Lukes Church	3-4pm

Barbara Molog Chair and the Trustees of SCMT