



Renewable Heritage Trust

Old Buildings – New Energy

April
2005

friends Newsletter

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Volunteer Day

Despite it being Mother's day, we had a fantastic turnout for the first of our 'first Sunday' open days. Helpers young and old(er) got stuck in to shifting logs, cutting back ivy, digging out the mill race, cleaning masonry and attacking tree roots. We were also very pleased that some people who had prior en-



gagements took the time to come and see what was going on even though they couldn't stay on this occasion. So a very big thank you to all 32 people who took part for your efforts and enthusiasm, and we hope you will join us again on 3 April. A special thank you to Eileen and William Brown for keeping the home fires burning! Don't forget to tell your friends - the more the merrier, and it's great day out.



Bob the Builder lends a hand...

Bob Perkins of Ryedale Conservation Supplies, Terrington, has very generously offered his services to teach the rudiments of lime mortar pointing.

This will take place on Sunday 3 April, meeting at Howsham Bridge at 10.00am. Just £4.00 will buy you a bucket of mortar, we will provide the tools and the building to practice on, and Bob will provide the expertise!

If you are interested in taking part, please call Mo on 01653 619748 or email me on mo@rht.greenisp.org to book a place.

An opportunity to help the project and learn a new skill - hope you can make it!

Counting chickens...

Sadly, it would seem that this is what we did when we announced our funding package from the Sustainable Development Fund. When we gave our presentation to the SDF panel, they did say that it was just a matter of Yorkshire Forward rubber stamping the release of the money. However, somewhere between the rubber stamp and the page the available money has been significantly reduced. The £31,420 that we initially expected to receive has now been reduced to (a guaranteed!) £8,000. Not as much as we had hoped, but a useful amount of money nevertheless which will allow us to build a proper bridge (no more shimmying across steel girders!) and to complete the architect's initial plans for the building.

On a more positive note, we have been offered further funding from the renewable energy section of Yorkshire Forward to the tune of £9,400, which will be used to carry out the necessary studies to prove that the hydro scheme will not adversely affect the environment.

I think it is definitely a case of 'you live and learn'!

Memories of Howsham

Following the Yorkshire Post article on Sat 5 February, we have had a tremendous response with people calling to offer us equipment, advice and help.

We were also contacted by a number of people who remember Howsham when the mill was still working and who kindly agreed to be interviewed. The results of these fascinating interviews will be posted as sound bytes on our website shortly.

Many thanks to Mary Wreghitt (nee Carr, daughter of Carl Carr the miller), Alan and Dorothy Pickup who both worked at Howsham Estate, and Norman Creaser, horseman, poet, songster and active upholder of the East Riding Dialect, for taking the time share your memories with me.



Mary Wreghitt
(nee Carr)



Alan & Dorothy
Pickup



Norman
Creaser

Childhood Memories
by Norman Creaser

In the nineteen twenties, when I was a lad,
We had a small holding, and I helped "mi" dad,
We kept a cow, a calf, and a pig or two,
And with the big garden, and poultry, we had plenty
to do.

With three acres of grass, to be made into hay,
'Twas all 'ell and no notion every fine day,
'Twas all turned by hand, and led home at last,
Pa tidied up't stack, and made sure't thatch was fast.

Evry Saturday morning, hail, snow or blow,
With one of the farm men, to Howsham Mill I would
go,
Carl Carr, the miller, had two great big cats,
They did a good job, keeping down the big rats.

Down by the river, and under the road,
Across the grass field, ore the swing bridge we rode,
And there stood the mill which is now deralect,
Our heritage, I fear we are apt to neglect.

We would collect last weeks load, which the miller
had ground,
Having left our load, for the next weeks round,
We would climb on to the cart, make our homeward
way,
But my trip to the mill always made my day.

For a full chronology of the Howsham Estate,
visit our website: www.rht.greenisp.org

Snippets of History

One of the snippets given to me by Mary Wreghitt was an article from a local newspaper by Ron Willis, (circa 1965, we think) which fills in a bit more of the history of the mill:

"...Mr A Wilson-Remmer of Lockton, Pickering, told me that the first mill on the site was built during the reign of King Canute (1017-35). It was a king's mill and paid an annual fee of 8s to Edward the Confessor in 1042. It paid a similar sum to William the Conqueror in 1080.

His family, he added, were millers for many centuries, working the old mill at Easingwold and, in the mid 14th-century, taking over Howsham Mill which they worked until 1905.

'There was no Hall at Howsham in

those far off days,' said Mr Wilson-Remmer, 'but there was a Manor House and in 1060 it was occupied by Waltheof. It then passed to Earl Robert who was also Earl Mortain - a large estate in Normandy.

It passed on through the years until it became the property of the late Sir Charles Strickland who had large estates at Robin Hood's Bay and Hildenley, near Malton.'

Mr Wilson-Remmer added that the old lantern pinion and peg-toothed gear wheels were taken out in 1720, and the present iron gear wheel installed. There was one old wood-framed gear wheel still in the mill. The waterwheel was changed to the all-iron waterwheel in the time of John Rennie, the Scottish civil engineer of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The wheat cleaning machine was put in at the same time—1810..."



Carl Carr (left) with his
brothers Hughie (centre)
and Alf

**Don't forget -
Volunteer/Open
days every first
Sunday of the
month!**