



Renewable Heritage Trust

Old Buildings – New Energy

August
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*friends*Newsletter

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Too much of a good thing...



As we all know, the ultimate success of the Howsham Mill Project relies on a plentiful supply of water - however, this summer we could definitely have done with slightly less! For two and a half weeks, the footpaths to the mill were impassable; re-building work ground to a halt and only the most intrepid could actually access the island to check for potential damage.

For anyone concerned about the ramifications of such weather on the finished building, rest assured that it has been taken into account in the design. We have always known that the building stands in a flood plain, so the interior of the mill has been designed accordingly; the floors will be flagged with drainage holes in the walls to allow easy sluicing; all the electric points will be up high, and we are planning to install hooks on the walls from which to hang the furniture at the first suggestion of a flood warning. There will of course be times when this means that the mill will not be open to visitors, but as this has happened only twice in the three and a half years we have been working on the project, we don't think it will have a major impact in the long term.



Footpaths under water in July!



Funding update

We are extremely grateful to the J & P Benson Trust, the Sylvia and Colin Shepherd Trust, the Earl Fitzwilliam Trust and the St George Martin Trust for their generous donations which have helped to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the project. In addition we have received a number of private donations from individuals and groups visiting the mill, in all totaling £7,189 which has helped us enormously towards our goal of completing Phase 1 by the end of September.

That said, as a small Buildings Preservation Trust we are always short of money, so if anyone out there has any bright ideas for fundraising, or feels they would like to hold a fundraising event in aid of the Howsham Mill Project, we would love to hear from you. Pictures from any events will be included in the next friends' newsletter.

Don't forget!

Forthcoming Woodland Craft Workshops:

Living Fence Construction - 10.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday 2 September - Structure, weaving
Sunday 7 October - Weaving
Sunday 4 November - Planting

The Magic of Trees - 10.00am - 2.00pm
Friday 26 October

Half-term activity for kids!

Join in the nationwide Seed Gathering Season and have fun with seasonal crafts.

To book a place on any of the workshops, call Angela on 01653 618892.

Progress report



Before



After

The millpond wall housing the outflow from the wheel chamber proved to be quite a task. Once the enormous tree stump was finally removed, some of the wall had to be taken down right to foundation level, although as much of the original was preserved as possible. Bricks excavated on site were used in the reconstruction, and the top stones (long missing from the original wall) were reclaimed from a yard in Bradford.



The Granary before



South elevation complete

Phase 1 of the re-build is well underway. For those of you unfamiliar with the 'Phases' of the project, Phase 1 is the reconstruction of the Granary which will provide much-needed kitchen and toilet facilities and house the generator for the waterwheel and turbines.

The generator cabinet is in; the door frame and windows have been built, and within the next couple of weeks, the roof will be on (a source of great excitement I have no doubt for our volunteers who until now have had little or no shelter from the weather!).

The flooring and the rainwater harvesting tank have arrived and are ready for installation, so it's all happening! The estimated date for completion of this Phase is the end of September, as ever, weather permitting!



North elevation complete



Doorway built and gable end well underway



Geoff Hutchinson



John Adams

Master craftsmen

The difficulties associated with taking on a restoration like Howardian Mill cannot be underestimated. Just getting the materials to site is not straightforward as everything has to be loaded onto a pontoon and floated up river, then manhandled all with the assistance of only a small winch and a winch. Add to that the complexity of sourcing bricks and stone which exactly match those excavated on site - now more than 250 years old - working with backhand line in the wettest summer in living memory, and individually dressing each piece of stone before its final position, and you begin to get a small snapshot of the conditions that our stone masons Geoff and John have had to contend with. All credit to them, their perseverance and their expertise that our beautiful building is starting to take shape.

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Don't forget

We still hold Open Days on the first Sunday of every month when anyone is welcome to pitch up and see what's going on. Just because the experts are steaming ahead with the building, doesn't mean there isn't a lot of more unskilled work to do! Even if you just want a nice walk to check out progress, we'd love to see you. Forthcoming dates are:
September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 2.
Hope to see you there!



Spotlight on...

Chris Fawdington
Volunteer



Whenever there is any serious manual labour at foot of the mill - digging mud out of the wheel chamber, negotiating 9 tons of steel turbine up the river, laying hardcore for the car park or pile-driving fence posts, Chris can usually be found in the thick of it. But what possesses a man with a 35-year history in

big business to spend his free time up to his neck in mud and sweat?

A passion for ornithology is what first brought Chris to the banks of the River Derwent conducting bird surveys for the Howardian Hills AONB. Through this same organisation he became aware of what was going on at the mill, and loving the area, decided to come along and find out more.

Happily for us, he was enthused by what he saw and is now one of our stalwart volunteers who has been heavily involved in all the major developments of the project. As for his stress-driven farmer life in the business world, does he miss it? Not a bit.

URGENT
APPEAL

Let's RAISE THE ROOF!

We have reached a critical point in the build of Phase 1, and are running short of funds. To ensure that it is completed on time, we are appealing to all of our supporters for help.

The RAISE THE ROOF campaign means that you can sponsor individual roofing slates - as many or as few as you like - and make a significant contribution to the completion of the Granary. You can even buy them as a gift - certificates are available to be sent by return with your personalised message. The names of anyone helping to RAISE THE ROOF will be included on a list of acknowledgement in the finished building.

Slates cost just £2.00 each and we need 1500 of them, and fast! To follow our progress, please check the website which will be updated weekly on how many we have funded.

If you feel able to help, please send your cheque made payable to the **Renewable Heritage Trust** to: Mo MacLeod, Raise the Roof Campaign, 2 Sudniction Croft, Westow, York YO60 7NB.

By filling in the enclosed Gift Aid form, you will allow us to claim an extra 28p for every pound you donate, so please include it with your donation - every little helps!

Many thanks