

**Renewable Heritage Trust**

Old Buildings – New Energy

May  
2006

*friends* Newsletter

Issue No:  
0006

# The wheel beginning!

Photographs © Tony Bartholomew



Delight on the face of Trustee Eileen Barker as two years of preparation finally came to fruition on Sunday 7 May with the arrival of the first new piece of the mill — the water wheel.



Funded by the Howardian Hills AONB, the three tons of metalwork was transported in pieces down the river for construction on site. Two hundred and fifty years ago, the building materials would have been delivered by barge - the 21st-century version was a 6m x 4m pontoon which carried its load in fine style!



Tom Stephenson - our hero of the hour

## Friendly farmers take the weight off

The success of the transportation operation was due in no small part to the Stephenson family of Howsham village.

Not only did James Stephenson grant us permission to use his land, son Tom spent a great deal of time unloading the lorries, moving the pieces down to the river, and then loading them onto the pontoon with his forklift truck.

Without his assistance, all of this would have had to be done by hand. With three tons of metal involved, it doesn't take much imagination to work out how much time and effort this saved.

Our sincere thanks to the whole family for their invaluable support!

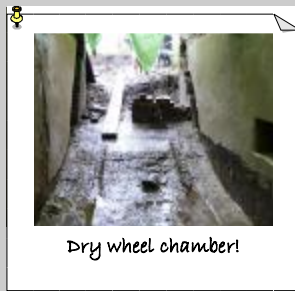


**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP YET?**

# May Scrapbook...



Stonemason Geoff Hutchinson, gets to work on the wheel chamber, in preparation for re-building the wheel



Dry wheel chamber!



TV students from York St John, Eliza Ferguson and Lauren Pitt, film the arrival of the wheel as part of their work placement



BTCV volunteers lay much-needed boardwalk



Helmstley Archaeological Society brave the rain in numbers to visit the mill



Army cadets practice digging trenches as part of their D of E Award Scheme service

## Something's afoot in the mill race

Since the beginning of the project when we first saw pictures of the mill in its heyday, we have hoped that one day the statue of Diana which stood resplendent atop the pyramid roof would one day re-emerge.

Last year we had a hot tip that she may have been taken to Castle Howard, but a conversation with the curator put paid to this theory as he had no record of the statue on his inventory at the big house.

Two days ago, however, Marjorie Dandy and Paul Lister, armed with a metal detector got the first sighting of the long-lost goddess - well, part of her anyway. Unearthing a large piece of lead from the silted up millrace, it turned out to be one of her feet!



The search continues for the rest of her, but at least now we know where to look!

## Funding news

In June, our application to the Rural Enterprise Scheme for £132,000 will go before the panel. This will pay for the development of the Granary and provide our volunteers with much-needed toilet and kitchen facilities, not to mention a roof! Many thanks to John Devos of the Plunkett Foundation for his invaluable assistance with the application. Fingers crossed!

Following a pre-application meeting on site, we have been given the go-ahead to begin the long process of applying for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This is likely to be in region of £250,000, and if our application is successful, will put us well on the way to restoring the main mill building. Watch this space for news!

With all these 'ifs' and 'maybes', it is great to be able to report that we have recently been granted £22,500 from the Ryedale Council Community Investment Fund. This will pay for access improvements including development of the car park, and further boardwalk along the footpath. For all of you who have slipped and slogged the length of the current path to the mill, I'm sure this will be very good news indeed!

For further information about the project and how you can get involved, visit our website: [www.rht.greenisp.org](http://www.rht.greenisp.org)

