

November
2006

friends Newsletter

Issue No:
0007



No cash, but winners nonetheless!

Unsurprisingly, the whole summer has been dominated by the TV series Restoration Village. From the moment we received the call saying that we had been chosen to take part we were on the campaign trail, in a whirl of filming, radio interviews, journalists, putting up posters, handing out leaflets and sticking stickers on anything that moved.

Contrary to his reputation in some quarters, Griff Rhys Jones was charm itself and genuinely interested in the project - a busman's holiday for him as he has just bought an old watermill of his own in Wales. The Roadshow was a great success with around 500 people visiting the island throughout the day, but despite our best efforts, the big cash prize was not to be. Are we down-hearted? Not a bit of it. Our little project received over 18,500 votes in the Northern heat and nearly 27,000 votes in the final. We have never had so many volunteers or visitors, and we have received more than one unsolicited donation as a result of the publicity. (Most gratefully received!) A huge thank you to everyone who helped, promoted, delivered, stuck, stuffed, supported, held parties and of course VOTED!!!

Restoration Scrapbook



Ptolemy Dean & Marianne Suhr at the mill



Filming for the show



Norman Creaser visits for the first time in 74 years



Roadshow buses—thank you Coastliner!



Men at work!



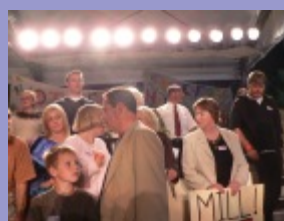
Big boom!



The supporters' bus



The Final!





Return of the Dambusters!

After the disappointment of our first attempt at creating a coffer dam to allow us to dig out the rest of the millrace and get the waterwheel turning once more, the army came to our rescue. The power of the river put paid to the plastic piles on their own, but several hundred bags filled with the spoil from the digging, happily did the trick. What would have taken us mere mortals weeks to complete was finished in a day by the army cadets from Harrogate, and is still holding. We hope to re-engage the mill with the river by our next Open Day. At last, some real progress and a step closer to electricity generation at Howsham!



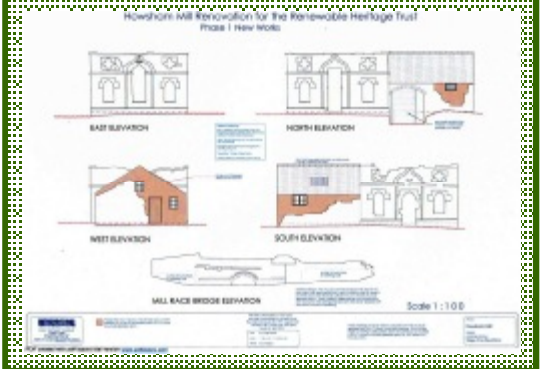
The power of a piece of paper

The whole future of the Howsham Mill Project relies on our ability to generate electricity to provide an income stream to support the restored building in the long term. It has been a nail-biting wait, therefore, for a decision from the Environment Agency on whether to grant us an Abstraction Licence, the document necessary for us to be able to re-direct the river through the water wheel and turbines.

We have of course always believed we had a good case and that we would get our licence eventually - however, after nine months of negotiation we finally have permission in writing and can breath a big sigh of relief!

All set for Phase 1

Since the last newsletter we have received the fantastic news that our application to the Rural Enterprise Scheme was successful. They have granted us £108,651 to begin work on Phase 1 of the project, being the restoration of the Granary section of the building. Happily for all our volunteers, this will house toilet and kitchen facilities to gether with the generator for the water wheel. All we need to do now to complete it is raise the £30,000 matched funding - if anyone has any ideas we'd be very glad to hear them!



Back by popular demand... Woodland Craft Workshops 2006-7

Sun 3 Dec 2006

Yule Tree Dressing

Sun 4 March 2007

Green Oak Workshop

Sun 6 May

Green Oak Workshop

Sun 2 Sept

Living Fence Construction
(Structure/Weaving)

Sun 7 Oct

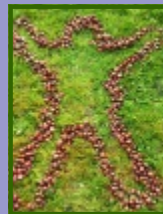
Living Fence Construction
(Weaving)

Fri 26 Oct

The Magic of Trees
(Half term activity)

Sun 4 Nov

Living Fence Construction
(Weaving)



All courses are free, but booking is essential.

Call **Angela Cole** on: **01653 618892**

or E-mail: geoff.and.angela@ukonline.co.uk

Yule Tree Dressing

Sunday 3 December, 10.00am - dusk

Come and celebrate the cultural and environmental value of trees.

Two visiting artists will help us creatively decorate a living tree with felting and textiles. Make a woodland lantern and a wish!

All welcome...drop in or stay all day



Any Questions?

If anyone has any questions about the project that you'd like answering in the next newsletter, please e-mail them to me at:

mo@rht.greenisp.org

or send them to the address overleaf.

