

Renewable Heritage Trust

Old Buildings – New Energy

June
2008

Friends Newsletter

Issue no:
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Two steps forward, one step back



Since the beginning of the project, we have been lucky enough to be surrounded by the very best of human nature - people from all walks of life willing to give up their time and energy for nothing more than a cup of tea and a jacket potato - to ensure that Howsham Mill is restored back to its rightful place at the heart of the community. It is all the more shocking and saddening, therefore, that the actions of a few individuals seek to undo all the good works carried out over the past months and years.

On 23 May, one of our Trustees arrived at the mill to discover all the newly-installed windows smashed and the kitchen area - well, frankly, trashed. Crockery broken all over the floor, First Aid kits strewn inside and out, graffiti on the door and all our paperwork and postcards in the millpond. We deliberately left the windows uncurtained so that would-be thieves could see that there was nothing of particular value inside, but according to the police who attended, they felt that theft was not on the agenda - purely wanton destruction.

The estimated cost of the damage is around £5,000, but the knock-on effects could be much worse. Making a claim on our insurance will inevitably increase the premium for next year, and we can only hope that the Insurance company does not insist on our gating the island off when there are no Trustees present. This would mean that visitors could access the mill by appointment only, and goes entirely against the whole ethos of the project which seeks to make the island available to all. We are also now having to fundraise for expensive CCTV equipment, instead of being able to concentrate our efforts on the rebuilding of Phase 2.

Tempting though it is to despair for the state of our society where certain individuals can think of nothing better to do in an idyllic rural setting than knock seven bells out of a beautiful building - it is worth remembering that they are vastly outnumbered by those who, regardless of such setbacks, continue to offer us their whole-hearted support, time and enthusiasm to make sure that the project is a success.

Gift Aide

A project like ours relies heavily on the assistance of our unsung heroes who beaver away behind the scenes often undertaking the irritatingly bureaucratic jobs which others run a mile from, but which make a huge difference to the fundraising efforts of the Trust.

One such individual is Tim Nicoll who, for the past couple of years has had the unenviable task of sorting out the Gift Aid contributions on all donations to the Trust. Not only has he had to contend with the official paperwork, he has also had to expend a great deal of energy chivvying the Trustees into remembering to get donors to fill in Gift Aid forms, and following up the people we have missed.

His systematic approach and perseverance within a somewhat chaotic organisation like ours has brought in nearly £4,000 for the cause. Thank you so much, Tim for all your efforts.



New fundraising committee

Historically, fundraising for the Howsham Mill project has been largely undertaken by the Board of Trustees. However, as the project has grown, so has the volume of work and the Trustees (all volunteers) are struggling to find time to organise essential fundraising initiatives to keep the project going.

What we desperately need is a committee of individuals, independent of (but reporting to) the Trustees, to develop events and campaigns to provide the Trust with much-needed core funding.

The only qualifications you need are a passion for the project, a creative mind and enough time to attend monthly meetings and assist in the organisation of events. **Can you help?**

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Mo on **01653 619748**. We need you!

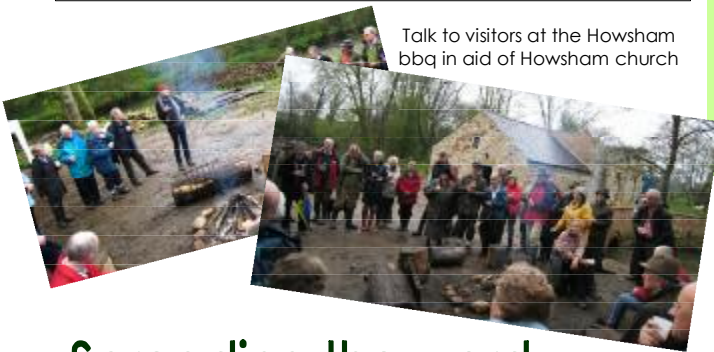


A small 'clunk' with EveryClick

In the last newsletter, I asked you all to sign up with EveryClick as your internet browser to help raise funds for the mill. All was going brilliantly until recently I noticed that my beneficiary settings had been changed from 'Renewable Heritage Trust' to 'All supported charities'. When I tried to reinstate the RHT setting, I couldn't find us on the list! This apparently came about due to an error on the EveryClick server, which has now been rectified, and our first cheque for £15 is now on its way to us.

This may not seem a lot, but *every little helps* (to coin a phrase) and it is a way for people to raise money without paying a penny. So, all of you who have been kind enough to set up your computers to use EveryClick, could you just double-check that the Renewable Heritage Trust is still your beneficiary?

For those of you who are interested in setting up EveryClick and helping to raise money for the mill, just go to www.everyclick.com and choose **Renewable Heritage Trust** as your beneficiary. **Many thanks!**



Talk to visitors at the Howsham bbq in aid of Howsham church

Spreading the word

As the ultimate aim of the project is to return the Mill to the heart of the community, it is extremely important for us to get out and about to let people know about it.

This year has been very busy for the Trustees, giving a whole host of talks and tours to groups both at local venues and on site, and exhibiting at local events such as the 'Secret Wood' event in Scarborough and Crambe Fete. Upcoming dates also include the **Heritage Event** at the **Milton Rooms, Malton** on **Saturday 28 June**, and **Green Day** at **Helmsley Walled Garden** on **Saturday 16 August**. Why not come along see us there?

If you organise speakers or visits and think that your group might be interested in hearing more about Howsham Mill, its history and its future, please don't hesitate to contact us. (Contact details shown below).

Don't forget our First Sunday Open Days!

6 July	5 October	
3 August	2 November	10am - 4pm
7 September	7 December	



Spotlight on...

Mel Nichol
New Trustee



"Be careful where you choose to walk your dogs," might be the advice given by our latest Trustee, who, whilst doing just that, stumbled across the Howsham Mill Project.

Mel became a volunteer in 2006 and very rapidly became a regular feature on the island, usually to be found up to her elbows in mud or single-handedly attempting to defeat the scourge of the Himalayan Balsam.

In 2007 she took on the role of part-time Project Administrator, proving herself undaunted by either the co-ordination of the Phase 1 build or the complex reporting to funders which ensued. Never happy with being desk-bound, however, the calls of admin have not stopped Mel's practical work on site - whenever there are tons of masonry to shift, sluices to be dug out, or timber to be painted, you can guarantee that she will be in the thick of it.

Mel has become a truly invaluable member of the project team, and we are therefore delighted that she has agreed to become the latest member of the Board of Trustees.

Powerless

After a year of delays, excuses and general prevarication, the company who were building the hydraulic hub for the Archimedean Screw turbine to allow us to begin generating electricity has gone into administration.

The delay in commissioning this equipment has been hugely damaging to the project in terms of lost income, and this final body-blow was the last thing we needed.



Undeterred however, we are now actively pursuing alternatives and our hope is that we will be generating power for the building before the end of the year.

A claim has been lodged with the Administrator.



Exhibiting at the Secret Wood event in Raincliffe Woods

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