



MILL BITS

The Newsletter of the CRANBROOK WINDMILL ASSOCIATION

August 2022

Chairman: Nick Vinall, Secretary: Andrew Riddell, Treasurer: Peter Bourne

Floodlighting of the Mill



Before

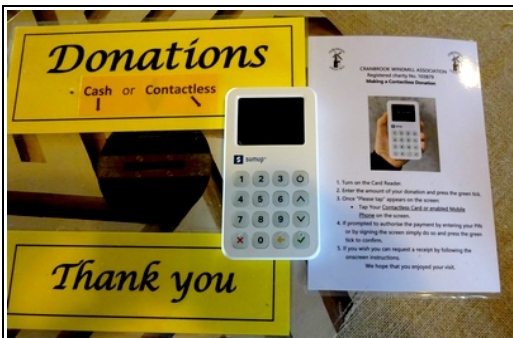
During April and May, the mill has been floodlit in blue and yellow, the national colours of Ukraine, to show our support for those suffering there.

However, on the 1st June, our chairman applied some new coloured filters to the spotlights, ready for the Jubilee Celebrations. Also with the help of a couple of passing stewards, some bunting was clipped onto the rails on the staging.

After >>



Money Transactions - we have the Technology



Volunteers and Visitors are discovering a new way of paying at our shop or making donations to Windmill Association funds. The new card readers are made by [SUMUP](#) and are seen in shops increasingly frequently. This is because they are purchased outright (ours were £50 each, special offer!) so no monthly rental is needed though a transaction charge of 2%(ish) is made.

Our versions have a built in SIM card so there is no need to link to a mobile phone which some versions do. We chose this to make life easier for our shop volunteers. There is one on the shop counter and one on the donation box. To make a payment you simply enter the amount and Tick to confirm. Then wave either a contactless card or a phone with a payment app (eg Google or Apple Pay) over the screen. It takes a few seconds for the device to link to SUMUP. One can also use a chip-and-pin card and enter one's pin. The machine then offers the option for the donor to enter an email address and receive a receipt. The money appears in the CWA bank account about three days later.

At the end of the day the card readers are put on charge in the shop store. Overall they seem to be working very well, are easy and efficient, with no problems so far.

QR Codes - Visitors can also use their Smart Phones to access websites with videos of mills. For example, on our refurbished display of milling through the centuries, situated on the Exhibition Floor, you can watch the last miller still operating the [1000 year old mill in Nashtifan](#) in Iran (model on right).



If you have a suitable phone, you can try it out on this QR code.



CWA Summer Party



The Cranbrook Windmill Association was founded in 1982 so this was our 40th anniversary and deserving of something a bit special. Our founders were Jack and Peggy Fryer (with others) and Jack was our first Chairman. He died around 25 years ago but Peggy is in her 90s, and living in a care home in Cheshire. We drank a toast to them.

Thirty members enjoyed the nibbles kindly provided by Susan Hooper, Pat Hall, and Linda Swann, followed by strawberries and cream. Centre stage was Susan's 40th Anniversary fruit cake with its special 'photo topper' which created much interest. We sent a photo of the Mill to an online company called "[Cake Toppers](#)", and back came a thin icing version to be laid on the cake's flat icing. (Other "toppers" are available.)

The enjoyable evening was rounded off with a short folk music "concert" by Richard Matthewman, a new CWA member, who chose some traditional songs with a windmilling connection. Many thanks to all concerned.

RENOVATIONS - ALMOST THERE!

The last week in July saw the return of the Fantail and Sweeps and, although from a distance the mill looks complete, there are still a few jobs to do, which is why the millwrights have left their "cherry-picker" crane on site. The remaining work includes fitting the last few shutters (which await replacement pivots to be cast), securing the fantail and connecting it to the winding mechanism via the Y-wheel and worm-drive. A rope round the Y-wheel was used to turn the cap to face the road before installing the sweeps, which also presented the "best view" of the mill when approaching from the Hill. The spider and striking mechanism are being reconnected as I "go to press".

A full report by our chairman will appear in the next Mill Bits.



Damage to Rolvenden Windmill



Readers may be disappointed to hear that this post mill has lost about half of a stock and sail-frame in a recent gale; the photo (left) was taken in early June 2022. It is likely that cracked paintwork allowed water to penetrate and weaken the stock.

The mill was derelict by the end of WWII and was one of several mills considered by KCC for restoration in 1949 but the estimated cost of £500 was considered too much at that time. However, Mr & Mrs Barham paid for the mill to be restored in 1956 by Thompson's, the Lincolnshire millwrights, as a memorial to their son, after he was killed in a road accident.



A group of CWA members visited the mill back in 2009 and David Hall took the accompanying photo of Wynn Tremeneere (for many years our chairman) explaining the workings to David's wife, Pat.

An Unusual Windmill Conversion

This strange granite tower was originally [Vale Windmill](#) near the Northern end of Guernsey but it was converted into a lookout post, etc, by the Germans after they invaded the Channel Islands in 1940. More recently, there are plans to convert it to a des-res.



A Dutch Windmill with all Mod-cons



There's an excellent video about [Windmills in Holland](#) on YouTube. After a general introduction to Dutch mills, the miller shows the workings of a drainage mill, built in about 1529, which is also his home.



Use the link above or this QR code to watch the video:

Final Bits

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