



FRIENDS OF MOULTON MILL NEWSLETTER



January 2023

Review of 2022 / Forward to 2023

- **April 2022 – Mill 200 year birthday; Folk Night with “Pennyless”**

Built in 1822, and continually in use until the last miller retired in 1995. Following a period of extensive fund-raising and careful restoration, coupled with the hard work of volunteers, this remarkable building first opened to the public on 29th April 2005. It therefore seemed a fitting date and time to mark its 200th birthday. Celebrations were held jointly with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June – referred to below. It is also on or near St George's Day – 23rd April – that we arrange a Folk Night with the popular “Pennyless” duo. Always sold out. (See events list for 2023.)



Pennyless performing at the mill

- **May 2022 – Quilters Exhibition over three days**

Following the pandemic, a number of the mill volunteers decided that they no longer wanted to participate at the mill, or they had found other interests and activities during the time the mill was required to close. Despite efforts to recruit additional volunteers, there were insufficient numbers to staff the mill during weekdays. This led to restricted opening hours of Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays only. That situation persists for the foreseeable future. One unfortunate casualty was the Quilting Group - which previously met at the mill on Thursdays and Fridays – who had to make alternative arrangements. That said, Norma Munton and members of the Quilting Group were able to put on an outstanding quilting exhibition at the mill, over three days in May, when they raised £980 for the mill. Many thanks and congratulations for all their efforts.

- **June 2022 – Platinum Jubilee/Mill 200yr Celebrations; Free Afternoon Teas; Teddy parachuting; Vintage cars & tractors; etc.**

It is a real credit to those members of the local community who came together to form a committee to organise events over four days of celebrations. Praise has rightly been forthcoming from many quarters, including individuals, families, and local groups for the nature, quality and extent of the activities they organised – and they were all FREE, due to the sponsorship so readily given by local businesses and

organisations. And that's not all! Such was the success of their fund-raising that they had funds left over, meaning donations could be made to a number of local groups and organisations, including the mill, which received £600. The Moulton Celebration Committee has evolved, and now has plans for the Coronation celebrations later this year. Look out for announcements in due course.



Abbeygate residents watching the teddy parachuting



John Booth & tractor in the parade



Vintage cars lining up for the parade



Free afternoon tea at the mill

- **Mid-October 2022 – mill closes for safety reasons**

Whilst endeavouring to manually turn the mill cap some brickwork became dislodged, some of which fell onto the gallery and into the road. Emergency measures were immediately implemented to seal off the area and make it safe. The area around the mill was fenced off with warning signs displayed, and the mill was forced to remain closed for the remainder of 2022. Much gratitude is due to local builder, James Kirk and his team for all their help and expertise during this period. Subsequently, any remaining loose brickwork was removed and the building has since been made safe. The cause of the brickwork issue is

still being investigated, but it has been established that the brickwork in question was not supporting any part of the tower, which remains structurally sound. As part of the safety measures it was decided to use the opportunity to remove the shutters from the sails to prepare for any winter storm or high winds, and also to renew the canvas covering to give them all a new lease of life when they are re-fitted. This work is still in progress.



Sadly, during the period of closure, not only did the mill lose considerable income from our regular visitors, it was also necessary to cancel a number of bookings, and the annual Luxury Hamper Draw. However, special thanks are extended to the Community Centre committee for coming to the rescue of the mill Christmas Gift & Craft Fair in November, by allowing the mill to hold the fair in the Community Centre. A great example of community cooperation. The question of mill costs and losses brought about by the enforced closure is yet to be finalised.

• **2023 – Chairman's comments & Mill Events**

The mill will continue to open every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday throughout 2023, with various events already planned – see events list on the back page. The regular Quiz Nights prove to be ever-popular, despite a small increase in price for 2023. My personal gratitude to all the regular participants, and also to Moulton Fish & Chips for holding their prices during 2022. New teams are welcome, and due to popularity it is always a case of first come, first served, with payment in advance. And if you have any unwanted Christmas presents, our Quiz Night raffle table is an ideal outlet. The craft fairs also prove to be popular, often resulting in a waiting list for those wanting a table.

Although reduced in number, the mill cannot continue to operate, either as the only tea room in the village, or as a working mill, without the continued dedication, commitment and support of our volunteers. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for all your efforts and input throughout the year.

As many of you know, Janet Prescott has been the driving force behind the mill restoration programme since it began in 1998. She has been responsible for securing grants, organising, training, managing, and generally ensuring the success of the project. Such has been her involvement, not only with the mill but also Crowland Abbey, that in 2013 she was awarded the BEM in recognition of her services to conservation in Lincolnshire. She has been Company Secretary throughout, but has announced that after 25 years she is now standing down to concentrate on her day job, which is likely to involve considerable travel. Whilst she will not be involved in the day to day running of the mill, Janet will still be there in the background to provide the benefit of her knowledge and experience, albeit from a distance. On behalf of all the Friends, volunteers, and customers, both past and present, We thank you Janet, and wish you well in all your future endeavours. Finally, a big thank you to all our visitors and customers. Your patronage helps to ensure the continued operation of the tea room and the mill. **Alan Lambert**

Moulton Mill - Programme of Events - 2023

Day	Date	Event	Time
Sat	14 Jan 23	Mill re-opens	10am
Fri	17 Feb 23	QUIZ NIGHT (fish & chip supper) – Tickets in advance	7.30pm
Sun	19 Mar 23	MOTHERS DAY (take Mum on a free tour)	10am – 4pm
Fri	07 Apr 23	Good Friday - Bank Holiday - mill open	7.30pm
Sun	09 Apr 23	Easter Sunday – mill open	10am – 4pm
Mon	10 Apr 23	Easter Monday - Bank Holiday - mill open	10am – 4pm
Fri	14 Apr 23	QUIZ NIGHT (fish & chip supper) – Tickets in advance	7.30pm
Fri	21 Apr 23	FOLK NIGHT with the return of "Pennyless" – Booking required	7.30pm
Sun	30 Apr 23	CRAFT FAIR (10.30am – 2.30pm) Mill open as usual	10am – 4pm
Mon	01 May 23	May Day - Bank Holiday - mill open	10am – 4pm
Sat	06 May 23	Coronation Celebration Weekend – details tba (Mill open as usual)	10am – 4pm
Sun	07 May 23	Coronation Celebration Weekend – details tba (Mill open as usual)	10am – 4pm
Mon	08 May 23	Coronation Celebration Weekend – details tba Bank Holiday - mill open	10am – 4pm
Sat	13 May 23	(Spalding Flower Parade) (Church Flower Festival)	As advertised
Mon	29 May 23	Late May - Bank Holiday - mill open	10am – 4pm
Fri	09 Jun 23	QUIZ NIGHT (fish & chip supper) – Tickets in advance	7.30pm
Sat	10 Jun 23	TEDDY PARACHUTING	10am – 4pm
Sun	11 Jun 23	TEDDY PARACHUTING	10am – 4pm
Sun	18 Jun 23	FATHER'S DAY (take Dad on a Free Tour)	10am – 4pm
Fri	28 Jul 23	QUIZ NIGHT (fish & chip supper) – Tickets in advance	7.30pm
Mon	28 Aug 23	Summer Bank Holiday – Mill open	10am – 4pm
Fri	15 Sep 23	QUIZ NIGHT (fish & chip supper) – Tickets in advance	7.30pm
Sat	16 Sep 23	Moulton Harvest & Tractor Working Weekend	tba
Sun	17 Sep 23	Moulton Harvest & Tractor Working Weekend	tba
Fri	17 Nov 23	QUIZ NIGHT (fish & chip supper) – Tickets in advance	7.30pm
Sun	26 Nov 23	CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR (10.30am – 2.30pm) Mill open as usual	10am – 4pm
Sun	17 Dec 23	Friends gathering, Mill closes	Early pm
Sat	13 Jan 24	Mill re-opens	10am

PLEASE NOTE: This is a list of our **proposed** events. Unforeseen circumstances can often result in sudden restrictions, when coupled with a shortage of volunteers, alterations to our Programme of Events are often unavoidable, leading to situations whereby events can be subject to change or cancellation at short notice. Visitors are therefore advised to check the website at www.moultonwindmill.co.uk, or call 01406-373237 for the latest information.

Why not support the mill and sign up to the local lottery at

<https://www.selcplottery.co.uk/>



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