

The Windmill at Windmill Hill

We were unable to open the windmill to the public during 2020 which was a great disappointment for the trustees, volunteers and visitors alike. However, we are making plans to open in 2021 – albeit with a shorter season from the end of June to the end of August. As always, we are looking for more people who are interested in volunteering to help with maintenance or as part of the visitor support team.

Since April 2020, the Windmill Hill Windmill Trust has become a ‘charitable incorporated organisation’ (CIO) and has a new charity registration number 1188439. The trustees of the new CIO are the same as those of the old charitable trust but the aims and objectives have been slightly amended to —

*The advancement of education for the public benefit by:
The restoration, preservation, operation, and improvement of the windmill at Windmill Hill,
East Sussex, BN27 4RT;
The provision of public access to the windmill and the encouragement of the study of the
windmill by the public.*

Because of the covid restrictions we were unable to hold any fundraising events during the year. However, we have been able to apply for grants and we were grateful to receive the Covid 19 business support grant from Wealden District Council, and grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to cover emergency expenses and expenses for reopening in compliance with covid regulations.

Not long after the first lockdown of 2020, the trustees received a report of significant rot in the sweeps and it became clear that all the sweeps would have to be replaced at a cost of around £50,000. A fundraising campaign was launched and about 65% of the money has been raised from grant-giving trusts. This meant that the trustees could give the go-ahead to the sweep replacement project last month. The old sweeps were taken down on 24 and 25 March and detailed measurements will now be taken to prepare for the next stage of building the new sweeps. Keep an eye on our Facebook Page for progress reports.

The windmill at Windmill Hill is part of the local heritage – and we hope that all residents of Herstmonceux and the surrounding villages will continue to support its restoration as volunteers and visitors.

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