MEOPHAM WINDMILL
www.meophamwindmill.org.uk

To Support Our
Continued Renovation Works
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Newsletter

30sh September 2026

EDITION 5

The season has been in full swing from day one and we continued our efforts to make Meopham Windmill a strong asset to community life and to raise awareness that the windmill is open for more than just tours. We began by venturing out to Vigo Village Summer Fair, where we set up another successful stall to raise awareness of the windmill. Over the past 3 months we have also delivered talks and presentations to local historical societies and charitable clubs.

Still focused on the conservation and sustainability of our heritage building, with the support of funding from Meopham Parish Council, we continued various maintenance projects and we also joined the national events scheme, Heritage Open Days, in order to extend our reach and impact.

Sunday Open Days have included extra experiences that have entertained visitors. These have included a classic car display of Midgets and Sprites; promenades around the garden by members of the Dicken's Fellowship and Broomfield Farm, Pick Your Own set up fresh produce stalls.
We have also sold Meopham Honey

We received requests from organisations including, schools, scout groups, Rotary and W I groups, businesses as well as interest groups from Meopham U3A.

None of this would be possible without our amazing team of dedicated volunteers who have given their time and commitment to make the mill available to the community. We trust you find our updates inspiring and please continue to support us to raise awareness by sharing our Website and encouraging everyone to Subscribe to our Newsletter. www.meophamwindmill.org.uk

1,000th Visitor!

We surprised Archie Gouldthorpe when he received a Special Certificate and a Goody Bag for being our **1,000th visitor** to the Windmill.

This has been a milestone moment in the history of Meopham Windmill and Dave Denman was thrilled to be able to present a wonderful Meopham Windmill tote bag full of souvenirs and Archie was very pleased with his unexpected gifts.

With his family, he climbed the levels on a Rat Trail not knowing he was about to receive his very own Rat as a prize. There were plenty of smiles as other visitors and volunteers celebrated a thousand visitors since we opened the doors in Spring last year. Well done Archie!

2,000th Visitor Surprise!

Unexpectedly, we exceeded all our expectations when we reached our second goal of 2,025 visitors, On our last day of being open to the public, there was a last minute rush on and queues stretched down the driveway.
The lucky person, through into the windmill on the click of the counter, was Lucy who had brought quite a crowd of excited but well behaved children with her.
An amazing achievement for our windmill and a lovely bag of goodies and special certificate for Lucy.

Children's Activities

Whilst waiting their turn to take the Tour, children can enjoy a range of activities from simple colouring-in pictures to constructing a tiny windmill out of nuts and bolts.

Most children are very keen to follow the Rat Trail as they pass around the windmill. When they have found all the Rats, children receive a Rat Trail Badge and Certificate for their success.

We are members of Wheels of Time, a Kent based scheme to encourage children to follow a cartoon character Roamin' Rex and visit a wide variety of heritage sites.

When children visit Meopham Windmill we give them our special badge and when they have collected their quota of various badges they can claim a Wheels of Time Award.

Alongside, all this fun, once children have enjoyed their tour of the windmill they can find an assortment of reasonably priced souvenirs for them to remember their visit by.

Guides, Scouts and Cubs Group Visits

A large number of guides, scouts and cub groups from Meopham, Longfield, Hartley, Gravesend and Northfleet, visited the windmill and undertook specific tasks whilst they learned about the importance of milling. The children were fascinated with the workings and conservation of the windmill and they enthusiastically earned their Windmill Challenge Badges via a range of activities.

10th Medway Cubs

Meopham Community Academy Field Trip

Meopaham Community Academy arrived for a presentation and tour of the mill and were fascinated by the wind technology which brought the working of the mill from its historical beginnings to its modern daily activity.
They left with their Rat Trail certificates and badges, and of course they chose some special mementos from the souvenir stand.
Their teacher has tasked the members of the school Newsletter Club to write a report on their visit, and pupils asked some great questions and were fully engaged in the machinations, history and specifically role of the windmill in local community and the lives of children throughout the last 200 years.

Sunday Specials

Some Sunday Open Days include a variety of unexpected attractions.
This year, visitors to the windmill were delighted to see some interesting additions to our garden and grounds.

Windmill Guide and Volunteer Bob Grieves arranged for a great display of classic cars which were polished up beautifully and gleamed in the sunlight.

The Dickens Fellowship dressed up in all their finery and walked amongst visitors causing quite a stir and drawing in passers-by.

The sight of the open mill with the garden filled with visitors attracts many people passing by and they often stop over on the bicycles and motorbikes and their penny farthings!!!

Sprites and Midgets

The Dickens Fellowship

Heritage Open Events

England's largest festival of history and culture!

We were invited to participate and be amongst over 6,200 heritage sites across England which give opportunities to learn and enjoy our history.

Thousands of volunteers and organisations are involved for 10 days every year in September, when people and families gather together to celebrate their cultural and historical heritage. Stories are told, communities and traditions are explored, and histories are brought to life. This event particularly offers the public a chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences all for FREE!

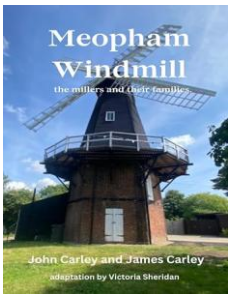
Meopham PYO - Squashes and Honey

Our Heritage Open Day also included Meopham Pick Your Own at Broomfield Farm, who kindly supplied a range of their quashes and some locally farmed honey. https://www.meophampyo.co.uk/

Meopham P.Y.O

~ Meopham Honey ~

Souvenirs and Merchandise



Just Passing By

As activity in the village comes alive on Sunday afternoons from Spring to Summer, many families and friends just out walking, as well as passing ramblers along with others catching up on the cricket, just spontaneously drop in to see the windmill.
Les stopped by for a 2nd time with his penny farthing and another time, Stewart pulled over to catch a quick tour of the windmill and possibly to include the mill as a future stop off point.

www.pennyles.co.uk

An avid cyclist and lover of historic and unusual rides – often races and attends charitable causes.

www.aproperadventure.co.uk

A guided motorcycle tour company with stops at legendary spots - max 4 riders designed to build confidence, sharpen skills focused on safety.

Continued Maintenance

Repainting the Reefing Platform

The balcony around the reefing stage needed some serious renovating and so, despite the inclement weather, volunteers set to work removing the old layers of paint and treating the rust. The safety barriers were cleaned and repositioned and in a few days the balcony was gleaming and ready for visitor photo shoots and selfies.

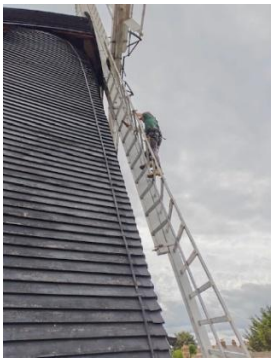
Gardening

Keen gardeners have nurtured the beds and grounds all year, to create a magnificent show of colour all year round. Despite the incredible heat and dry soil of the recent heat wave our intrepid volunteers have worked hard to bring the garden back to life again.

Repainting the Doors and Windows

The doors around the windmill have been left unpainted fpr several years and it was time to spruce them up and now they shine and gleam in the sunlight. We are very proud of the doors especially as a couple of them needed hinges replacing. They look good and will keep the place warm in the winter ahead.

The Sweeps needed some professional help



After the extreme dry heat of the summer months, our reliable expert Tim Whiting the owner of Suffolk Millwrights, was called in to help when we had a serious issue with the sweeps. All rigged up in his safety gear Tim climbed up on high to fix the problem. Success!
Everyone breathed and all was made well for smooth running once again.

Many Other Bespoke Visits

Various groups have visited such as The Fellowship of St John's Church in Meopham, several Women's Institutes, British Legion and Rotary Clubs. We still have a few bespoke bookings for the Autumn and the calendar and already have bookings for 2027

Halstow British Legion

Views of the Partial Eclipse

Thank you to everyone who was able to capture some amazing photos over the windmill for us.
We appreciate your time and effort taken to contribute to our historical records.
A special event that we couldn't let it go past our windmill.

Out and About

Bee Walks

Despite the extremes of weather this summer, so far, most walks have had a good result with generally higher numbers of bee sightings and species recorded.

During the early part of the year Bee Walks began at Meopham Windmill, and so far been well supported.

Jillian Shields has agreed to act as the Bee Walk Leader and new members can contact her via a link on the Meopham U3A Interest Groups under Bee Watch.

Presentation Evening in Barming Village

Maidstone Invicta U3A History group invited Andy Chapman to give a cohesive and fascinating presentation to their members, about Meopham Windmill in all its various incarnations which was followed by a Q & A session.
Andy captured the imagination with tales of the families who owned and built the mill from its conception right through to its modern condition as a much loved Grade ll* listed heritage building.
It is important to give presentations about the historical value of the windmill to inspire more people to come along and visit.

Vigo Fair

Volunteers took the Show on the Road and promoted the Windmill at Vigo Summer Fair.

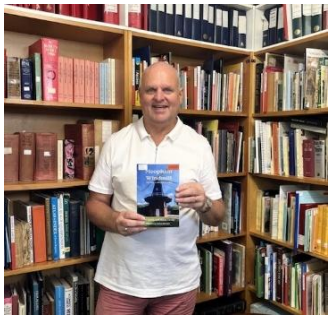
A happy event with a very warm reception and lots of interest from the families and friends of Vigo School who were fascinated to know windmill is now open.
We are delighted that since their Summer Fair, many of the families we talked with have been along and enjoyed our Free Tours.

Visit to Davidson's Windmill, Stelling Minnis

Our efforts to reach outward resulted this summer in several volunteers taking a trip to Davidsons Windmill at Stelling Minnis to see how they run their mill and also others

Meopham Windmill Book in the Library!

Our newly published book of the historical beginnings of the Meopham Windmill and the milling families who built her and worked in her, has been included in North West Kent Family History Society (NWKFHS)
Windmill volunteer Graham Jensen, brought our book to the attention of NWKFHS who meet at the library in Summerhouse Drive, Bexley and so our book has been included in our first library.



Volunteer With Us - Make a Difference

Choose things you enjoy doing and either share your passion and interests or learn new skills. Either way, have fun and make new friends.
If you would like to donate your skills and interests for just a few hours a week – a month – or once in a while- then please email us. **info@meophamwindmill.org.uk**

Looking Forward to December

Subscribe to Our Newsletter Receive Early Information

When you subscribe to our mailing list we send you advanced information for all our future events via email.
You can subscribe via our website by scanning the QR Code or the link below and please share tell your family, friends and colleagues about Meopham Windmill.

Thank you for supporting us, from everyone here at Meopham Windmill

https://meophamwindmill.org.uk

Please Help Us by Making a Donation

All your donations go directly towards maintaining this rare windmill. Every person involved in this work is an enthusiastic volunteer because we have no paid staff.

Although, the initial restoration was funded by KCC, the running, repair and daily upkeep of the mill is achieved by your kind contributions and we greatly appreciate your valuable support. Thank you.
https://meophamwindmill.org.uk/support-us/

Just a Reminder –

Meopham Windmill is now Closed for Winter.
We hope to see you at our Christmas celebrations after which, we look forward to seeing you again
when we Open on Sundays in Spring 2027

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