

# Wynn Tremenheere, 1925 - 2015

Wynn Tremenheere  
by Simon Hudson

On the 5th February the sweeps of Union Mill Cranbrook were left in the mourning position recognising the passing of Wynn Tremenheere who had died earlier that day.

I knew Wynn for more than 50 years (his daughter Wendy and I started Primary School on the same day). From the very early days of the Cranbrook Windmill Association (the group who look after the mill on a day by day basis) Wynn took a leading role. A self-taught volunteer millwright who knew every part of the mill and the mill's history and delighted in sharing this knowledge with the many visitors that walked through the door of the mill, whether they were 7 or 70, from Hawkhurst or Holland, his enthusiasm was there for all to see and share.

Wynn served on the Cranbrook Windmill Association committee for many years and wrote a very easy to read guide to the mill. He visited many other mills both in UK and also in Europe. He compiled albums of photographs and press cuttings which he made available to visitors, such was his generous spirit.

Union Mill Cranbrook is known for its association with the Russell family, but I believe it should also be known for its connection with Wynn.

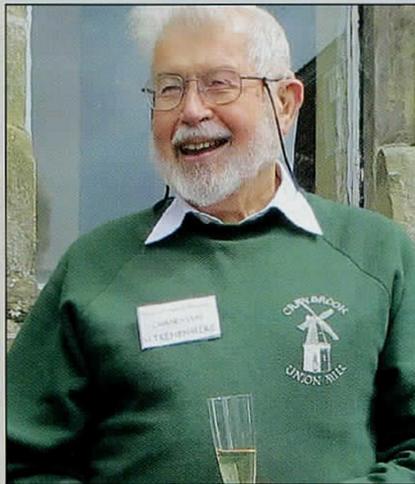
In February I lost a friend but more importantly Union Mill Cranbrook lost one of her best friends. Wynn's monument, like Sir Christopher Wren at St. Paul's Cathedral 'is all around you' when you visit this remarkable mill which was looked after so well, by such a remarkable man.

Simon Hudson

A Tribute to Wynn from Andy White, Chairman of the Cranbrook Windmill Association

While we mourn the passing of Wynn we rejoice in the legacy he leaves behind at the windmill.

What a man, what an enthusiast, what an inspiration. Windmill Wynn, or Mr Windmill as he was sometimes affectionately referred to was the backbone of the Cranbrook Windmill Association, the CWA. He was until November last year, the Chairman of our committee and as such steered us through an amazing year of activities to celebrate the bi-centenary of our iconic and much loved Union Mill, meeting and greeting the Mayor and other dignitaries and despite his advancing years he was always on hand to enthusiastically support the various celebrations. He was one of those people who was always first to arrive at any function and last to leave.



One of my duties is to arrange the monthly greasing team, to lubricate the moving parts in the cap at the very top of the Mill. As age catches up the thought of over 70 steps to climb, quite understandably has meant several of our regular but more mature volunteers have asked to be taken off the list of 'greasers'. But not Wynn, oh no - at 90 years old he phoned me and wanted to know why I had not called on him recently! I suspect he also wanted to check up the job was still being done correctly.

I have known Wynn for over 20 years, through stewarding at the Mill, and I have always been struck by his enthusiasm, his leadership and his patience, he encouraged new volunteers to become more involved and to learn about the workings of the Mill. Many times I have watched him talking to visitors and admired his ability to inspire in them awe, and wonderment, particularly noticeable when he was showing groups of school children around. It was a joy to watch as he captured their imagination and held them spellbound as he explained everything in simple terms.

Over the coming months and years I know we at The Cranbrook Windmill Association will slowly come to realise just how much he did behind the scenes to keep the Mill turning and the Association motivated. Last year he was in the process of making a list of all the tasks he carried out, his self appointed roles, and I think even Wynn was surprised at the increasing length of that list.

Wynn joined the Association soon after it was formed in 1982 and quickly became an enthusiastic and expert supporter. He was instrumental in arranging the celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of The CWA in 2007. He was, with others, responsible for organising funding to allow us to purchase the Russell building to the rear of the Mill which has proved so valuable to us in the running of The CWA.

To celebrate the bi-centenary last year he took it upon himself to produce a book entitled *Windmill People 1814-2014*. This is largely a pictorial record of all the people involved in building, running, refurbishing, opening the Mill to visitors and generally providing TLC to our historic landmark. It covers the full 200 years and is an amazing portrait gallery of folk past and present who have had an involvement. Well worth a look if you have the opportunity.

Wynn is going to leave a great big gap in our Association and he will be an impossible act to follow, however we are determined that his memory will live on and we will think of him whenever we open the Mill for 'business'. Thank you.

Andy White