

# Friends of Lowfield Heath Windmill

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Dear Friends,

It is exactly four years since the decision was made to move the mill in order to save it. The most visible happening since the last newsletter (May '90) is the erection of the second stock. The millwrights using a crane did the job in the early autumn, although we had had the timber for some time. The stocks hold the sails, or the whips as that part of the sail is called.

Work carries on at the mill each Sunday morning. At present the beams which support the first or stone floor are being repaired using the same techniques as the millwrights used, by scarfing new pieces in to replace the bad, or by applying epoxy resin to smaller areas of poor timber.

The roundhouse roof is now designed. Fortunately there were enough remains of the roof at Lowfield Heath for us to see how it was tackled. An unusual and exciting venture then got underway. We were generously offered two large straight oak trees that fell in Oct '87. Barry trimmed them, then Crawley Parks Dept took them, sliced them to the sizes we needed, and returned them to us. That cost money of course, but many times less than a normal purchase, and it is good to use our own Charlwood oaks. The first use for the oak is to form a wallplate round the top of the roundhouse wall to receive the lower end of the boarding of the roof, and also to form a smaller circle of oak to receive the top end. An interesting task! The roof boards are larch, they need to be tapered, and tongued and grooved. The joint between one board and the next is illustrated overleaf, there is a small ventilation gap under each alternate boards.

Also under way is work involving the tail pole, but more of that overleaf.

We are beginning to think about making the brake wheel, a huge 9ft diameter cog wheel, which will turn the front pair of stones, but also the circumference is the surface on which the brake is applied. It is a very complicated construction, but would be too costly to get it made for us.

It is hoped to have the mill open each Sunday afternoon from Easter to September. Apart from being a duty to the public, it brings in the all important money via a donation box. Most people are quite generous. We need to find the people to be on duty. It is quite a pleasurable task, on a summer afternoon, and visitors are very appreciative. One needs to be able to climb the steps to open the door and hook it back. It can be easier if two people can be on duty together.

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP OCCASIONALLY ? WE DO NEED YOU, PLEASE RING ME.

Visits for schools, or other parties, can be made at other times by contacting me, Jean Shelley, on 0293 862646.

Once again the Charlwood Society will kindly host a Windmill meeting this year, it will be at Charlwood Village Hall, on FEBRUARY 21st, 8pm for 8, 15pm. Starting with the Windmill General Meeting, it will continue with a miscellany called 'Windmills, making them work.'



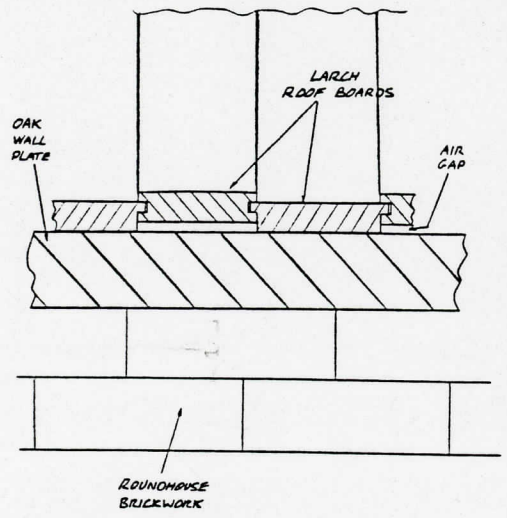
THIS YEARS WORK !

As explained overleaf we are currently working on the ROUNDHOUSE ROOF. Templates for the roof and wall plates were produced on a computer aided drafting machine ! These templates were then used to mark out the oak planks, each of which was 3" thick, 15" wide and 12' long.

The planks were then cut in half with a chain saw, and we transported them to Ifield Watermill, who have kindly lent us the use of their band saw. We have almost finished cutting the plates out, they will then have to be jointed and treated with preservative.

At the windmill the wall plates will be assembled in position on top of the wall, and the roof plates up higher. Templates have also been cut for the tapered roof BOARDS. These will be cut from larch planks 1 1/2" thick, 11" wide and 10' long, using a circular saw. A router will be used to tongue and groove, all 150 of them !

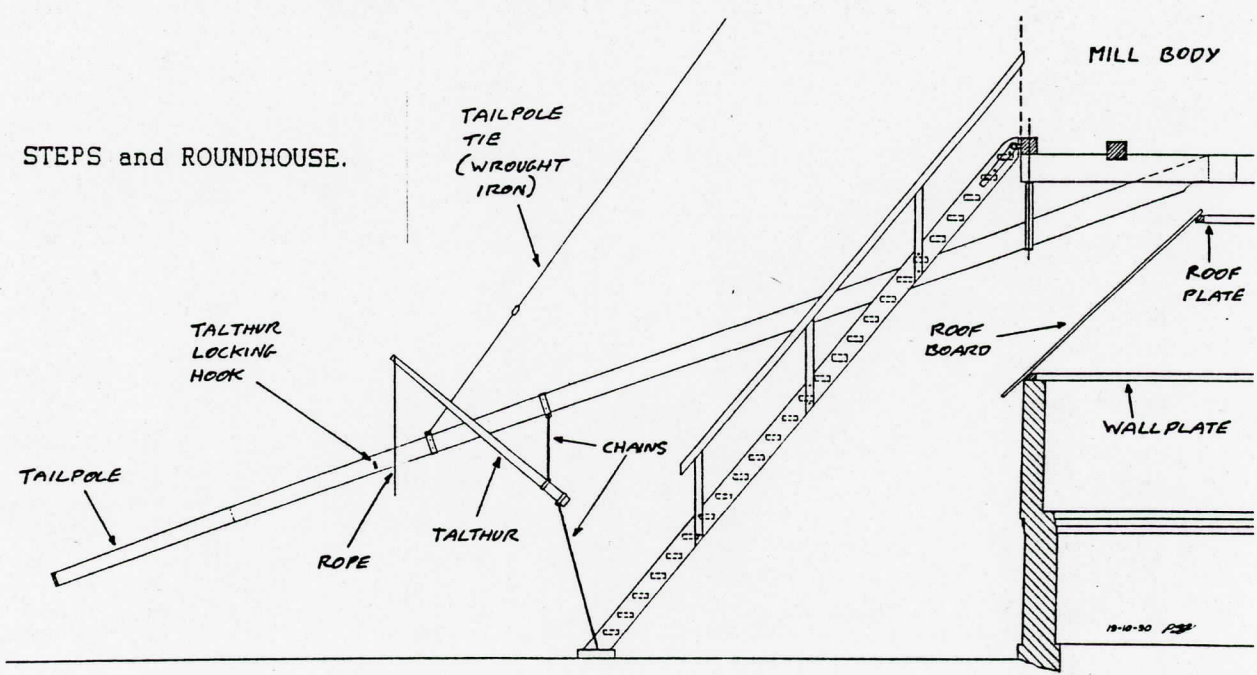
Final assembly will then take place, hopefully in the summer.



ROOF BOARD DETAIL.

In parallel with the above our blacksmith is making the fittings to attach the TAILPOLE TIE and the TALTHUR as shown below. The talphur is used to raise the steps proir to turning the mill into the wind.

The sketch also shows the new steps, set at the correct angle, these can be made if sufficient oak can be found (and paid for!) to make the stringers which are 26 feet long. Notice also that the tailpole will have to be extended 7 feet to come within working distance of the ground. All this information has been as far as possible, gleaned from photographic evidence.



STEPS and ROUNDHOUSE.