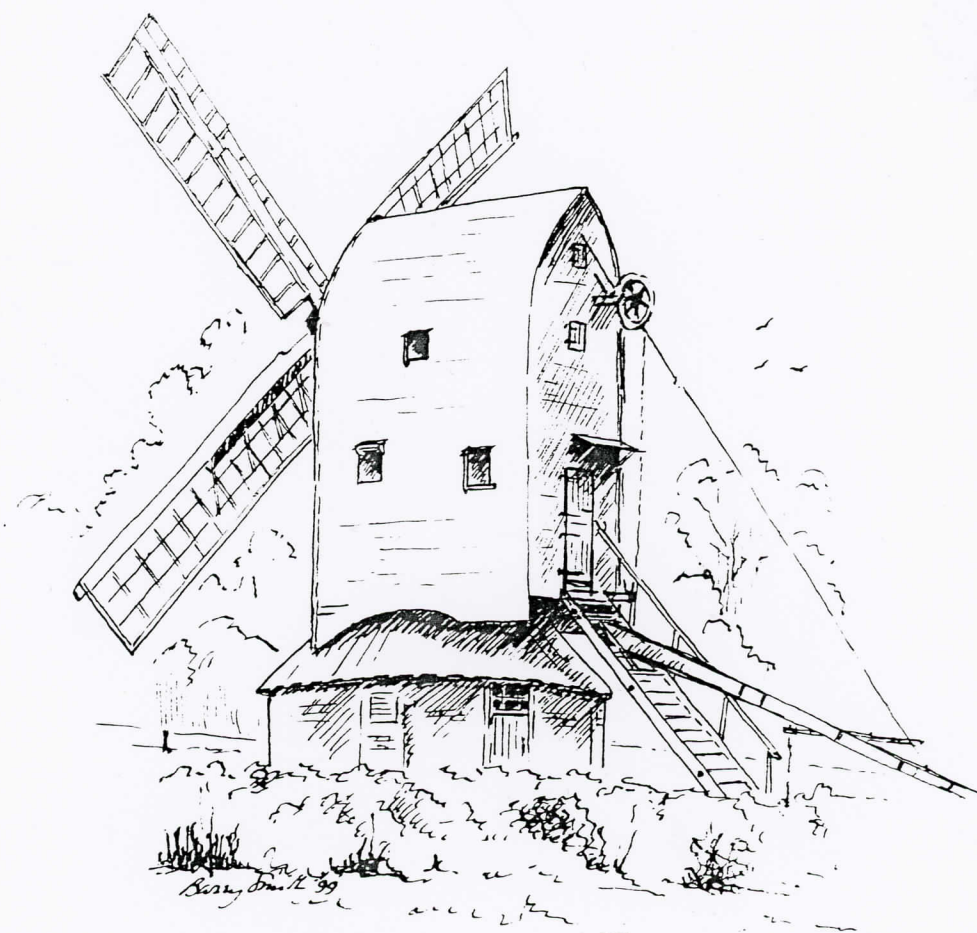


## *Friends of Lowfield Heath Windmill*

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NEWSLETTER No 14. SPRING 1999.

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Dear Friends,

This is just a single sheet as I expect you will wonder how the mill is progressing, but I shall need to write again in two or three months to tell you that the mill is complete, can grind corn, and the opening day will be ---. We are almost there. The millwrights, largely funded by the National Lottery, have done a very good job and have moved on to another task, but will come back to do some adjustments to the brake and complete the lightning conductor.

Peter James with the other volunteers have fixed the TALPHUR, this is a beam which acts as a lever to lift the steps clear of the ground allowing the mill to be turned to face the wind. The talphur is fixed to the base of the steps by a short chain, another chain runs from the tail pole down to a position along the talphur. By pulling the upper end of the talphur vertically down the steps will rise. The mill has been turned right round, it turns easily as it is balanced excellently on the post. The exterior is now complete.

Our volunteers are at present fitting safety rails around the upper stair well and setting up the grinding control gear. Peter is fitting the TENTERING gear and the GOVERNORS, these maintain the gap between the stones when the mill is grinding. The fly ball governors, (which are similar to those employed on a steam engine), raise and lower the tentering rods or steelyards which are long balance beams that transmit a small movement to the bridge trees which then controls the tiny gap between the grinding stones. The various pieces of metal are all original to our own mill, they were rescued from the ground around the Lowfield Heath site. The governor weights will be cast shortly.

Brendon together with one of the millwrights (who produces video films in his spare time) are working at producing short video films of the mill's story, these will be shown in the round house.

For the time being we will not be having regular openings of the mill. However May 8th and 9th are National Mill Days. We will be open on the Saturday from 2pm to 5pm and on the Sunday from 11am to 5pm. Don't miss it! Other mills throughout the country will be open on these days too. Why not visit some others, especially Ifield Watermill which makes a nice contrast. I will list some below with their Grid References.

IFIELD WATERMILL. TQ 245 364. Open Sun, 9th, 2.30 - 5pm. By junction of Rusper Road

OUTWOOD WINDMILL. TQ 328 456. and Hyde Drive.

NUTLEY WINDMILL. TQ 451 291.

SHIPLEY WINDMILL. TQ 144 219. Times of opening will be available later.

Tele: Jean Shelley, 01293 862 646. Peter James, 01293 409 845.



SECTION OF A BRASS IN ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, KING'S LYNN, SHOWING THE EARLIEST KNOWN REPRESENTATION OF A WINDMILL