



Swannington Heritage Trust Annual Report



1st April 2011- 31st March 2012

We hope that you find the annual report both an interesting read and a useful record of the huge amount of work that has taken place to help the Trust make progress during the year. The Trust maintains five historic sites comprising approximately 10 acres (0.4 sq km) and including 2.2 miles (3.5km) of hedges and boundaries, 2 miles (3.2 km) of paths and open spaces and 243 yards (222m) of railway track.



Hough Mill

The issues with the cap gearing have been resolved and the fantail now moves freely to turn the hypothetical sails into the wind.

The 200 year old mill had approximately 900 visitors during the year, including Griffydam school and a group of Bond car enthusiasts who finished their rally at the mill.

Brake Wheel

The construction of the 10ft (3m) diameter brake wheel is a major project which started during autumn 2011 and will continue until well into the summer of 2012. The £4,500 for seasoned oak was spent this financial year and the £2,000 for the cast iron teeth will be expended during 2012-2013. When the construction is complete the hardest task commences as it will be taken apart, hoisted piece by piece to the cap floor and reassembled around the wind shaft.



Gorse Field

The scrub has been well and truly bashed and burnt thereby helping this rare grass heath land to regenerate. Cutting back the bracken and the hedge was a significant contribution which should help with the new year's maintenance. Several areas are left to "grow wild" and provide a safe habitat for animals and birds.

Swannington school children planted bluebell bulbs in the south end of the field and in the Califat in early autumn. The gorse is growing well and there are several young gorse shrubs that are thriving as a result of clearance work.

Califat Spinney

The area around the initial excavation has been cleared of weeds pending the laying of bricks to outline the layout of the boiler house. A path has been created around the edge of the spinney to assist with maintenance access and provide a new route for walkers.

The last couple of silver birches from the 1911 planting were cut down as they were unsafe. The hundreds of trees that have been planted in the spinney during the last decade are thriving and produce a great show of autumn colour.

The 1st Appleby Magna with Measham Scouts had a fantastic time during their 26 hour survival camp as they coppiced hazels and used the material for building bivouacs.



Haystack Boiler

The Newcomen Haystack Boiler was excavated by LIHS in 1969 and has been stored by Leicestershire County Council at the Abbey Pumping Station and Snibston Discovery Park.

In February 2012 it was returned to the Califat on a five year loan. It has been mounted on a plinth and a roof will be constructed to protect it from the weather, as required by the Council.

LIHS Excavation

Leicestershire Industrial History Society has continued their monthly excavations at the site of the second boiler house. They continue to find new pipes and walls as they endeavour to piece together how the site operated. They opened the site to the public during the Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology in July and intend repeating this in 2012. There are five individuals who are members of both LIHS and SHT, this helps co-ordination.





The Incline

The maintenance work has been focussed on the top of the Incline. The weeds on the track and around the buildings have been controlled. The grass has been cut regularly and the trees cut back to allow the sunlight to reach the grass and flowers.

During 2012 there will be events at the site to commemorate the 180th anniversary of the 1832 Leicester and Swannington Railway, the first operational steam railway in the English Midlands.

Snibston No 3

The site has been maintained with several working party visits during the year. The hedge next to the railway line has been reduced in height and some trees stumps next to it removed. This work will continue in 2012 to make it easier for the hedge to be cut by a machine.

The primroses behind the big wheel are thriving as are the snowdrops which are also a delight on the Gorse Field and Califat Spinney.



Strawberry Fayre

The Strawberry Fayre was again the major fund raising event for the Trust with excellent planning by the organising team.

The strawberries and other victuals were as excellent as ever, the sun shone and a steady stream of local musicians provided the entertainment.

Hundreds of villagers and members of the general public from far and wide attended, a great way to publicise the Trust.

Publicity

The Trust has operated stalls at the Miners' Gala at Snibston and Coalville market.

There were another two excellent editions of the Trust magazine "Now and Then".

The website was comprehensively revamped at the beginning of 2013. This has included new features such as details of village organisations, diary dates and village walks.



Volunteers



The Trust's prime asset is its volunteers who have continued to contribute thousands of hours to help the Trust. These include the:-

- Land Management Team who work on Wednesday mornings.
- Mill Team who work on Friday mornings.
- Strawberry Fayre Planning Team and everyone who helped on the day.
- Editorial, production and distribution team for "Now and Then".
- Management Committee and officers such as Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Secretary.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped the Trust during the year.

Trust Membership

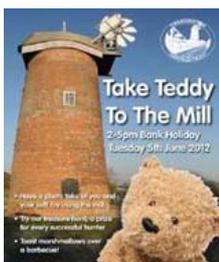
The number of Trust members remained in the region of 140 during the year. Increasing our membership is a key aim. While membership fees and donations are a key part of our income, the way members publicise the Trust in conversations with family and friends is even more valuable.



2012-2013

The management committee has been progressing plans which include:-

- The completion of the brake wheel by adding the cast iron teeth before moving it piece by piece for reassembly around the wind shaft in the cap.
- Family activities such as Take Teddy To The Mill.
- Keeping members more informed via a monthly email. Members who are not receiving this update should email info@swannington-heritage.co.uk.
- A Heritage Lottery Fund project to increase and enhance the heritage information available to visitors, walkers and web site viewers, including computer simulations, mobile apps and films.



Extracts From Financial Report

The Swannington Heritage Trust, Charity Reg. No. 515809, Company No. 1858055

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2012

	2012		2011	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Subscriptions Received	687		735	
Donations – Mill Receipts	426		662	
Donations - Other	1,022		1,170	
Sale of Merchandise	196		363	
Guided Tours/ Talks	35		144	
Fundraising Activities (Profit on)				
Strawberry Fayre	1,284		1,181	
Victorian Market	-		549	
Gift Aid Reclaimed	1,286		-	
Bank Interest on Deposit Account	20		20	
		4,956		4,824
Capital Received				
Grants Received – Mill Cap & Winding Gear	-		7,829	
Capital Equipment Donated	1,585		-	
		<u>1,585</u>		<u>7,829</u>
		<u>6,542</u>		<u>12,653</u>
Expenditure				
Publications: Now & Then	616		308	
Publicity & Website	204		698	
Printing & Postage	93		34	
Historical/ Conservation Group Affiliation Fees	35		340	
Cost of Merchandise	394		250	
Landscape Management	953		237	
Mill Maintenance	60		506	
Education Centre Expenditure	-		15	
Insurance	1,215		1,040	
Electricity	359		186	
Legal, Audit & Bank Charges	86		351	
AGM Expenses	56		11	
Licenses	20		62	
Depreciation	463		460	
		<u>4,554</u>		<u>4,498</u>
Net Surplus for the Year		<u>1,990</u>		<u>8,155</u>
Accumulated Fund Bought Forward		<u>238,712</u>		<u>230,557</u>
Accumulated Fund Carried Forward		<u>240,700</u>		<u>238,712</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2012

	2012		2011	
	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets				
Land & Buildings at Cost (increase is Brake Wheel)	187,708		182,531	
Equipment at Net Book Value (i.e. after depreciation)	8,211		6,874	
		195,919		189,405
Current Assets				
Stock of Publications & Merchandise	685		900	
Cash at Bank & In Hand	44,096		48,407	
Net Current Assets		<u>44,781</u>		<u>49,307</u>
Net Assets		<u>240,700</u>		<u>238,712</u>

Basis of Independent Examiners Report

I have examined the financial records, vouchers and accounts of the Swannington Heritage Trust for the year ended 31st March 2012, and have received and explanations required by me. My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity, and comparison of the accounts presented with those records. I also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in these accounts, and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiners Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the Trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that: Proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with S41 of the Act) Accounts are prepared which agree with accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act
2. To which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. JE Roddis