



HEAGE WINDMILL SOCIETY

Patron – J Kirkland
(Reg Charity No. 1065980)

**FROM – Trevor Ainsworth (Interim Chair),
Heage Windmill Society,
Chesterfield Road, Heage, BELPER, Derbyshire. DE56 2BH**

To the clerk of Belper Town Council,

On behalf of Heage Windmill Society, I am reaching out to update you on the current situation at the windmill. We recognise your previous support for the windmill and greatly value your involvement.

We are currently in the midst of sourcing funding for an upcoming project at the windmill. Following professional inspection of the windmill in 2022, it was discovered that one of the two key structural timbers in the cap of the windmill (the sheers) has significant wet rot in the exposed sections. Although safe at present, they will need to be replaced as soon as possible. The sheers (8m long and 30cm square in section) carry the weight of the machinery within the windmill cap and are crucial to the windmill's operation.

We anticipate the work will cost around £200,000 to complete. We have already raised half of this amount using Heage Windmill Society financial reserves which has been match funded by Derbyshire County Council, and we are currently applying to other national funders.

The great success of our fundraising journey for our 2015/16 project, which saw the replacement of the weather beam and the refurbishment of the sails on the windmill, was thanks to local support from authorities and business and we are confident in our ability to reach our target this time in partnership with our local supporters.

This project will secure the future of the windmill for generations to come so our visitors can learn about our local heritage and experience the history of milling in a Grade II* listed 226-year-old historic building.

Your support would be greatly valuable to us, our volunteers, our community, and all those yet to experience the windmill, especially because a lot of our volunteers and our visitors live in your district.

If this is something you may assist with, we would greatly appreciate your involvement, you can contact us to discuss this further.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Trevor Ainsworth
Chair of Heage Windmill Society