



Mr Wilf Foreman at the Wheatley Windmill. He is a national mill expert and a member of the committee of the Wheatley Windmill Restoration Society, which is trying to get the mill's sails turning again.

A windmill 'work-in'

Fancy a weekend working on a windmill in Wheatley?

The Wheatley Windmill Restoration Society is planning a "work-in" at the mill next weekend and is asking for volunteers to come along to help.

The society is dependent on volunteer help for restoration work at the 200 year-old mill and is hoping to attract skilled and unskilled workers to the working weekend and to gain their interest on a more long-term basis.

Jobs likely to be tackled are the cleaning up of scrap timber for re-use, cleaning of masonry joints before repointing and possibly the erection of more scaffolding. Skilled workers are needed for jobs such as putting in new window frames.

It won't all be plain sailing — volunteers are advised to bring work shoes to avoid blisters — but there are plenty of jobs on the site and work elms will be provided.

Mr Wilf Foreman, a member of the Restoration Society's committee and a national windmill expert, will be on hand during the weekend to explain the workings of the mill and the restoration project to any interested volunteers.

Mr Foreman, a former draughtsman who now devotes all his time to work on wind and water-mills, said the complete restoration of the Wheatley mill would be a long job. However, it didn't matter if it took ten years; it would be far better to see it all put back into working condition during that time than left for that period to decay and finally fall down.

Mr Foreman said the recent removal of the decayed cap and sails had meant the disappearance of the familiar silhouette from the skyline and had possibly given the impression that the mill was lost.

"Far from it. That was a necessary step towards final restoration, which is taking place from the bottom of the tower upwards," he said.

The windmill is sited on high ground to the south west of Wheatley and can be reached from Ladder Hill or from Gidley Way, Horspath — Windmill Lane links these two roads. Work on the mill will take place from 2 until 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 28 and from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 29. For more information phone Oxford 40611 or Wheatley 2317.