

The White Mill

by Alan Lee

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD of *White Mill Rural Heritage Centre*, The Causeway, Ash Road, Sandwich?

When driving by you see only the impressive white windmill built around 1760, even before James Cook discovered Australia. This smock mill was restored between 1960 and 1961 by millwright Vincent Pargeter and still retains most of its original wooden machinery. Although not a working windmill the machinery is kept in top condition and the sails have just been refitted. Visitors are able to go inside and see the actual mill machinery and view displays of agricultural machinery and equipment in the base.

But there is much more to see. The museum is housed in the millers cottage and the original outbuildings that surround the mill. These include the granary, cow shed, forge, grandad's shed, wheelwrights and cobblers shop. There are many photographs which show Victorian farm workers and local people 100 years ago and displays of agricultural and other craft equipment. There are exhibits of farming and craft tools, kitchen and laundry equipment, plus a complete wheelwright's and a blacksmith's workshop complete with forge. There are many rooms set out as they would have been, many giving the visitor a glimpse of a much simpler life and time of long ago.

Run by the *White Mill Rural Museum Trust* the whole enterprise, including maintenance and stewarding, is run by volunteers. If you have never visited it you are missing a real treat and, you never know, you might then like to become part of a great friendly team.

Opening times are:

ALL YEAR

Tuesday, Friday and Sunday
10am to 12.30.

EASTER TO MID SEPTEMBER

Sunday with Bank Holiday Monday
2.30pm to 5.30pm

NATIONAL MILLS WEEKEND

SANDWICH FESTIVAL WEEKEND

HERITAGE WEEKEND

Last entry is one hour before closing time.

A visit to the White Mill will not cost you the earth and is a great day out so why not pay a visit, you will not be sorry. For more information 01304 612076.

Article compiled from correspondence received from Ray Horton - Vice Chairman and the White Mill website.



White Mill, Sandwich