

Winter 2022/23 Newsletter

www.millofbenholm.scot

Sometimes things take a little longer than expected and for all those who have asked when our new website will be online, we have news, the website will be online in January 2023. We are just finalising the last pages and then the site will be launched.

Here is a little teaser...



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KEEPING THE WHEEL TURNING

THE MILL OF BENHOLM WELCOMES YOU

The Mill of Benholm is a restored, water-powered historic mill in a beautiful and peaceful setting.

Developments with North East Scotland Preservation Trust and the Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council

We had hoped that more progress would have been made regarding the asset transfer between the Council and NESPT, but things are moving in the right direction.

Over the last 3 months we have had several meetings with NESPT, Sarah Kettles, who is the Development Officer dealing with the fundraising application process for the Mill of Benholm and representatives from ARC Architects and Community Enterprise. ARC are the architects responsible for the condition report of the Mill of Benholm and Community Enterprise are assisting with the revised Business Plan for the Mill of Benholm.

The final versions of the condition report and the business plan are being completed and checked by the Quantity Surveyor. This will enable NESPT to submit their application for the asset transfer from Aberdeenshire Council together with the legal framework and the supporting brief from the development officer, in the first quarter of 2023.

Mill of Benholm



CONDITION REPORT 2022
V.3 Arc Ref: 22013.1.34



Business Case for full Site Development

Mill of Benholm : Renovating existing buildings and opening up the site for tourism, learning, food and community

Furthermore, a funding application to cover the costs of a Conservation Plan has been submitted to the Architectural Heritage Fund for decision in February 2023. This will help to inform future funding applications and is a requirement of some.

To meet the requirements of Aberdeenshire Council for the asset transfer, several expressions of interest have been submitted to funders to cover the costs of Phase 1 in the Business Plan. As soon as Aberdeenshire Council has given their legally binding agreement for the asset transfer, these expressions of interest will be changed into funding applications.

During Phase 1 we will stop further deterioration of the Mill of Benholm, making it safe and accessible for the public once again.

2023 will be an exciting year for the Mill of Benholm!

Mill Brae Wood

After a successful meeting with Brotherton Estate's owner, Mill of Benholm Enterprise have started to work on a lease for Mill Brae Wood which lies across the Burn of Benholm. We would like to reintegrate the wood with the Mill of Benholm site creating a linked network of paths and work to restore the biodiversity of this important habitat. Work has already been done to remove the dead elm trees and the site is abundant with ash, willow and birch regeneration. More planting of native species will take place once the new layout has been established.



Historic Churches Scotland

To improve the accessibility to locals and visitors of the whole of Benholm's unique natural and built heritage, we are working with Historic Churches Scotland, the owners of the historic Benholm Kirk. Together we are looking into the possibility of re-establishing an old and long forgotten path connecting the Mill of Benholm with Benholm Kirk alongside the Castle Burn.



Both organisations are working hard together to promote Benholm and its surroundings, with its array of A listed buildings, core paths and incredible biodiversity.

Events

On the 11th of December we held our first joint fundraising event with Historic Churches Scotland, an ‘Afternoon of Carols’ in Benholm Kirk.

This proved to be a great success, especially as we were joined by the pupils, of the Johnshaven Primary School.

Benholm Kirk was full once again and everyone enjoyed the carols as well as the refreshments afterwards. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this a successful and enjoyable event – all the volunteers and singers, organist Mr Hirst and Michael Fotheringham for the portaloo.

Thank you all for coming along!



In January we will work on an events calendar for 2023, some will be in Benholm Kirk, but hopefully, some will be at the Mill of Benholm.

Press & Journal


In the Autumn the Press & Journal sent a reporter and photographer to write an article about the Mill of Benholm, Mill of Benholm Enterprise and the plans to revive this marvel of the Mearns. They intend to follow any developments and report accordingly.

Q **The Press and Journal** *EveningExpress* [SUBSCRIBE](#)

SCOTTISH DAILY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR


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Mill of Benholm: Campaigners preparing £250,000 fight to save abandoned Mearns attraction before nature claims it back


 By **Ben Hendry** [🕒](#) September 20, 2022, 5:00 pm [0](#) [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [e](#)

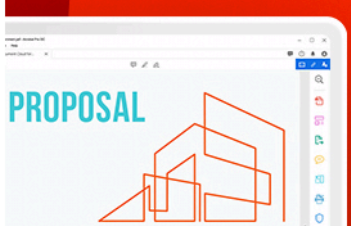


John Maxwell, Emma Pollock and Henning Wagner are part of the refreshed Mill of Benholm Enterprise. Picture by Kenny Elrick

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The Mill of Benholm Needs Your Help

We are on the home stretch, but the more support we can gather behind this project the more likely it will be successful.

To help us in our efforts to not only revive the Mill of Benholm with its Category A listed buildings, described by Historic Environment Scotland as “an exceptional and rare survival”, but also to stop further deterioration, before it is too late, please write to your local Councillor, your MSP and your MP to draw their attention to this important project for the local community and visitors and harness their support.

So please, if your relatives, friends or neighbours are interested to support us and become members, ask them to get in contact either through
Facebook - Mill of Benholm Enterprise, @benholmmill
Instagram - @millofbenholmenterprise
Or email – secretary@millofbenholm.scot

