

Spring 2023 Newsletter

The first quarter of 2023 was the time for our politicians to visit the Mill of Benholm.

In February, Cllr George Carr and Cllr Laurie Carnie visited the site together with Aberdeenshire Council Leader Mark Findlater and Tess White MSP.



We had many valuable discussions as Paul Higson (NESPT) and Sarah Kettles (our Development consultant) were able to join us on the day. The local Councillor George Carr was already very familiar with the project, but it was a good opportunity to show the Council Leader Mark Findlater and the Member of the Scottish Parliament Tess White the site and its deterioration. Everyone offered support for the project.

At the beginning of March, Mairi Gougeon, MSP for Angus North and Mearns and Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands visited the Mill of Benholm. Mairi is a long-time supporter of the Mill of Benholm and has again offered her support for the project.



This has not been Mairi's first visit to the site and, as our local MSP, she will do everything in her powers to support the transfer of the Mill of Benholm back to the community. She was interested in the partnership between the Mill of Benholm Enterprise and the Historic Churches Scotland to promote the whole of Benholm's beautiful, rare, natural and historic built.

At the end of March, our local MP Andrew Bowie visited the Mill of Benholm. He couldn't comprehend that such a beautiful and historically important site was left to deteriorate by Aberdeenshire Council and issued a letter of support and endorsement.



Visit by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Building

In April we had Lucy Stewart from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) visiting the Mill of Benholm. SPAB has expressed its intention to support the restoration of the Mill of Benholm with experts and volunteers where needed. After the successful transfer of the site from Aberdeenshire Council to the community, they plan to organise a training and volunteer weekend at the Mill of Benholm incorporating Benholm Kirk.

Mill Brae Woods

We are one step closer to lease the Mill Brae Woods from Brotherton Estate and had a walk through the woods with the landowner to establish the borders and a lease plan.



100th Member

In February we welcomed our one-hundredth member. Hannah McGregor, who lives in Benholm, (here with our Chair Emma Pollock) knows the Mill very well and has always wished for the Mill of Benholm to be open again. As a member of the Mill of Benholm Enterprise she feels she can help even more to support the revival of the site.



If you are interested to become a member of the Mill of Benholm Enterprise, please contact us or go to www.millofbenholm.scot

Fish Festival

We have already booked our space at this year's Johnshaven Fish Festival, after the success we had last year...

AGM

Our AGM will be in the Johnshaven Village Hall at 7pm on Tuesday the 9th of May 2023. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members.

We are looking for more trustees to broaden our board, if you are interested to become even more involved and become a trustee of the Mill of Benholm Enterprise in this exciting and crucial phase of the project, please get in contact. Contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

We hope to see you all at the AGM.

The Mill of Benholm Needs Your Help

Please support the Mill of Benholm Enterprise and become a member. Let's make this story a success story of the community of Benholm and Johnshaven.

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 @benholmimill
Instagram - @millofbenholmenterprise
Email – secretary@millofbenholm.scot
Or visit our website www.millofbenholm.scot

To support the Mill of Benholm Enterprise financially without extra costs to yourself, please sign up for Easy Fundraising at

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/millofbenholmenterprise>



The banner features the Easy Fundraising logo in the top left. The main text reads "Help us raise free funds" in large, bold letters, with "every time you shop online" underneath. To the right is a group of diverse people smiling in front of a large yellow sun. A dark teal bar at the bottom contains the text "You shop +7,000 brands donate For free" and an information icon. Below this bar, the URL "EASYFUNDRAISING.ORG.UK" is shown, followed by the text "You spend, brands donate to Mill of Benholm Enterprise. Help us when you shop with 7,000+ brands. Join now."

Or go to our website www.millofbenholm.scot/donate/ with the possibility to go direct to our PayPal fundraising site.



