

REPORT TO THE NINEVEH TRUST

PROJECT – MILLER/MILLWRIGHT'S SALARY –

We were awarded funds towards our millwright/miller's salary. He is the youngest millwright in the North West, in fact probably the only millwright in our region. He trained with Martin Watts, Millwright of Devon, who is now retired. During the period of this grant funding, Stuart has been able to train more people in the skills involved in repair and maintenance of watermills. He is also able to train people to mill flour using the traditional stones in the watermill. To date he has trained two people who have now become millers in their own right. One of these is a woman age 30, who is the miller at Warwick Bridge Mill near Carlisle. We have a good group of volunteers at Heron Mill, some of them are young people leaving our youth group with an eagerness to learn rural heritage skills.

How we achieved our key outcomes:

1. We were able to train 10 volunteers, 4 of which came from the youth group and were teenagers 15-16 years. One of the boys has Type 1 Diabetes, another has high-functioning autism. Another volunteer is 17 years old and has been with our youth group from the age of 9, he recently began college to study engineering and has also become our youngest new trustee/director.
2. 4 Young people from the youth group have become dedicated volunteers (see above para) and as one of them has now become a young trustee/director, we are very pleased. He has also gained his DBS certificate in order to supervise groups of young people in the youth group.
3. 3 older volunteers with trade skills such as electrician, carpenter and hydro specialist have given their time to sessions with young people from the youth group, making coppice products for sale (bird boxes) and repairing the gear teeth. Others have designed new outdoor shelters (as post-Covid-19 we are looking to make safer areas on site for people to meet and work)

The programme of volunteer training was going very well until the pandemic hit and in March 2020 we found ourselves unable to physically work with others on site. At the point of work being disrupted we were in flood with the river, causing problems with the rising water, and power outages had taken all the lighting and stopped the hydropower turbine from working. All of this was repaired and put back in action over the following months, and since the millstones have been redressed and replaced we are in a position once again to mill flour for the public and for sale. We intend to open the site to the public in spring 2021, after more work securing and making safe the access areas.

The funding of £5000 towards Stuart's salary was very welcomed, as with the turbine being out of action for a while, our core income has been reduced, and this is our only core income.

We would like to thank the Nineveh Trust for their help and support through what has been a really difficult time for us as a Charity.







