

October/November 2020 Parish Magazine

St Martha Parish Council News

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West Lodge, Blacksmith Lane

The saga regarding West Lodge continues. It has now remained empty for 12 years; apart from the last few months when it has been used as a base for PAYE. This company have carried out conservation work within the Mills site. The Parish Councils policy is that West Lodge should be used as a community asset, whilst keeping its historic link with the Nationally important Scheduled Gunpowder Mills site. As a first essential step, the Parish Council has submitted a planning application to allow a change of use from a dwelling to community use. A decision is awaited.

The conservation work on the Mills site has been completed for this year. Work has been carried out on the massive six bay building at the Eastern end of the site; on the tramway swing bridge and on ruins near the end of the canal. It has been carried out to a high standard by a very well established company.

The routine work of the Parish Council continues using virtual meetings on Zoom. The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th October at 7.00pm. As usual, this will be publicised on the Parish Council's website, Twitter and Instagram. All are welcome to join the meetings, just contact the Clerk in advance for the password. Regrettably, the popular public Annual Gunpowder Mills meeting, which was scheduled for 21st October, will not take place this year due to the virus.

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