

Volunteers Needed

For more information on becoming a volunteer at Rayleigh Windmill please complete the form below and return to:

**Rochford District Council,
Council Offices, South Street,
Rochford, Essex SS4 1BW**

Name: _____

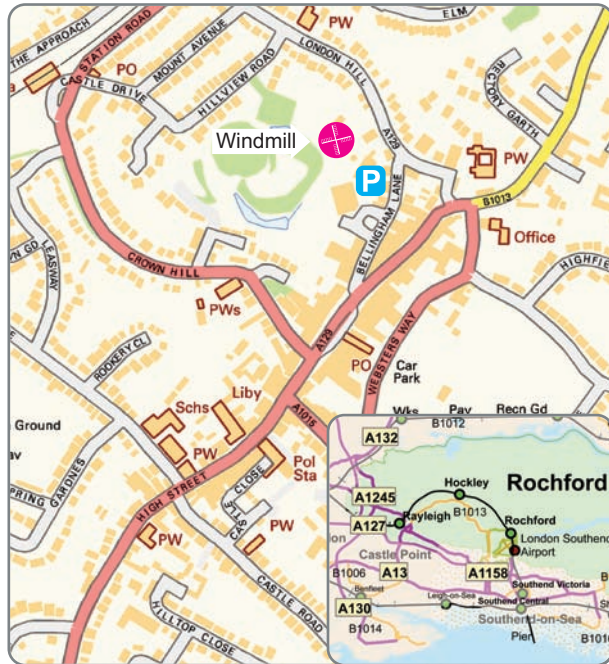
Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signed: _____

How to find us



The Windmill
Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED

Public opening hours

Additional open day
Wednesday 15 February

April to September 2012

Wednesday 10:00 - 1:00pm
Saturday 1:00 - 4:00pm
Sunday 1:00 - 4:00pm

Free Entry – Donations Welcome

For further information on group bookings,
visiting outside of public opening hours,
planned closures or volunteering opportunities
please contact 01702 318191

If you would like this information in
large print, Braille or another language,
please contact 01702 318111.



Rayleigh Windmill



www.rochford.gov.uk

Fortune turns for windmill

Following a major refurbishment programme Rayleigh Windmill re-opened in 2006 to high praise and continues to surprise and entertain visitors of all ages.

The 200th anniversary of the windmill was celebrated in 2009 and 2012 will be another year of exciting events and exhibitions at the windmill.

History of the Windmill

The Rayleigh windmill has had an interesting if chequered history.

- The mill was built in about 1809 and thrived in the early 19th Century, being the place to which corn from the surrounding areas was brought for grinding. Following the agricultural depression of the 1870s it went bankrupt in the late 1880s.
- Over the next few decades it frequently changed hands at the end of which time it had regained commercial viability.
- In 1884 a man was crushed to death while struggling to throw the machine out of gear.
- Another setback came in 1906 when the miller became too ill to tend to the sails – which required attention 24 hours a day. The sails were taken down and the mill was converted to steam and a few years later to diesel power. In later years it was powered by electricity.
- The windmill continued in use until just before World War II. In 1943 the owner of the mill, Archie Brown, was murdered by his son.
- In the 1970s restoration work allowed the mill to be opened to the public.

- The Windmill celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2009 with a year long project called 'Sails in the Wind', the project included many events throughout the year and culminated with a sculpture being placed in the Sensory Garden and a new exhibition for the windmill.

A TV screen is installed on the ground floor and cameras on each level of the six-storey building, which allows disabled visitors to see the upper areas of the interior and the stunning view outside the windmill. There is ramped access to the ground floor. The upper levels are accessed via steep ladders. There is a pay and display car park adjacent to the windmill. Public toilets are available in The Mill Arts and Events Centre.

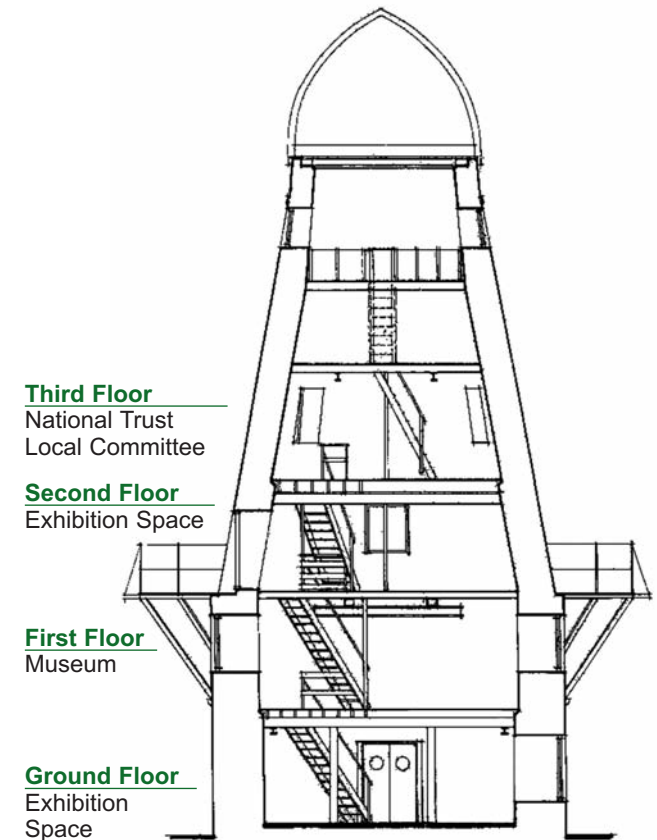
There are a number of partners in the project, including the National Trust. The windmill is adjacent to the ancient Rayleigh Mount, a Motte and Bailey Castle, which is the property of the National Trust.

The first floor of the windmill houses an accredited museum, particular emphasis is placed on the collection of photos, archives, wartime, domestic, farming and business items that have a direct link to Rayleigh.

The windmill has recently received various awards including:

- **Museum Accreditation from the Museum Libraries and Archives Council.**
- **Shortlisted in the Essex Tourism Awards**
- **Winner 'Best Project' Essex Museums Awards.**
- **Special mention for Sails in the Wind (200th Anniversary) project Essex Museums Awards.**
- **Accredited as a Quality Assured Visitor Attraction.**

six storeys ...



... begin a new chapter

This diagram of the interior shows that the building offers exciting possibilities for new projects, including exhibitions and art and craft displays.