



Students volunteer for Upminster Windmill restoration project

Students have been out and about in the local community acting as volunteers for the Upminster Windmill Preservation Trust.

The 12 Havering Sixth Form College students, who are all taking the Events Management Enrichment course, have been busy in Hornchurch and Upminster town centres, handing out leaflets calling for people to get involved in making sure the windmill receives funds for its restoration.

David Beesley, Student Liaison Officer at the College, who organised the volunteering, said: “We have been out in the town centres nine times, working with the Upminster Windmill Preservation Trust. The students wanted to volunteer for a local community project and as a group decided on this because they were all keen on promoting and saving the windmill.”

Upminster Windmill is a key landmark in the local area and is only half a mile from the College. It is a Grade 2 listed building and was built by local farmer James Noakes in 1803. It produced flour until 1910 and then continued to grind animal feed until 1934. It was purchased by Essex County Council in 1937 and is now owned by Havering Council. It is widely considered as one of the finest examples of a “smock” windmill in England. But it is in need of constant restoration and maintenance and the Upminster Windmill Preservation Trust work to raise funds for this purpose.

The group, along with the Friends of Upminster Windmill, are already opening the mill to the public for tours, but they want to get it back to full working condition and in the future open a visitors’ centre and even a bakery there.

The leaflets handed out by the students were to promote awareness of the fundraising and they asked shoppers for memories, experiences and photos to create an archive which can be preserved for future generations.

David Beesley said: “The students found it very rewarding to be helping such a worthwhile project. The volunteering will also go towards a certificate which helps with their UCAS applications and CVs.”