

Thanks to National Lottery players, the Trust responsible for the Village Hall and several other assets in Westmill is pleased to have received confirmation of a substantial grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund which uses money raised by National Lottery players to support projects that connect people and communities with the UK's heritage. The restoration of the village hall roof, due to take place this summer, has been made possible with grants secured from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Fund, Bernard Sunley Foundation and Pilgrim Trust. Originally a 17th century thatched barn used as a grain store, Westmill's Village Hall was created when the barn, part of Vine Farm owned by the Greg family, was converted and donated to the village in 1901 to be used for purposes such as dances, concerts, lectures and classes. A library of books was also donated by the Gregs and at the opening, Thomas Greg said "*... this hall is but the outward expression of that communal spirit which was so great a feature of our English villages and the inward and propelling force which is to make it a living factor is to be found in yourselves ...*" As a keen follower of art historian and social reformer John Ruskin, renowned architect Charles Spooner worked with the Gregs and was keen to preserve village life in Westmill by improving the housing. He converted the village hall, remodelled the green, altered Dial House, Vine House and the village shop, as well as designing the church lychgate, pulpit and lectern and building School Cottages. Thomas Greg began married life with Mary Hope in 1895 at Dial House and T and M Greg plaques can be found on houses throughout Westmill.

Mary Greg opened Westmill Museum in a cottage, formerly the blacksmith's forge and donated her collection of objects such as farming tools and cooking utensils, encouraging others to do the same, finding beauty in the ordinary. Thomas Greg died in 1920 and Mary set up the T & M Greg Trust in 1923 in his memory. Today the Trust, run by volunteers, is responsible for the village hall and cottage; recreation and grazing fields; allotments and copse; children's playground; Pilgrims Close almshouses; and Jackson's Meadow in Westmill.

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