

# SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

## Newsletter Number 4

MARCH 1978

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The publication of this Newsletter marks the beginning of Spring (at last!) and provides an opportunity to outline some of the work and visits to mills we will be arranging during the next few months. Already one or two dates are fixed - please note especially the Annual General Meeting of the Group at Woodbridge on Sunday April 23rd. (details on page 13), as the next Newsletter will not be appearing until May. One interesting development recently has been the 'formalising' of our links with our fellow mills groups in Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and the West Midlands, and also with the Suffolk Preservation Society. In future details of events organised by these societies will be published in this Newsletter.

May I take this opportunity to thank those Members who wrote telling me how much they enjoyed the last Newsletter. This is much appreciated.

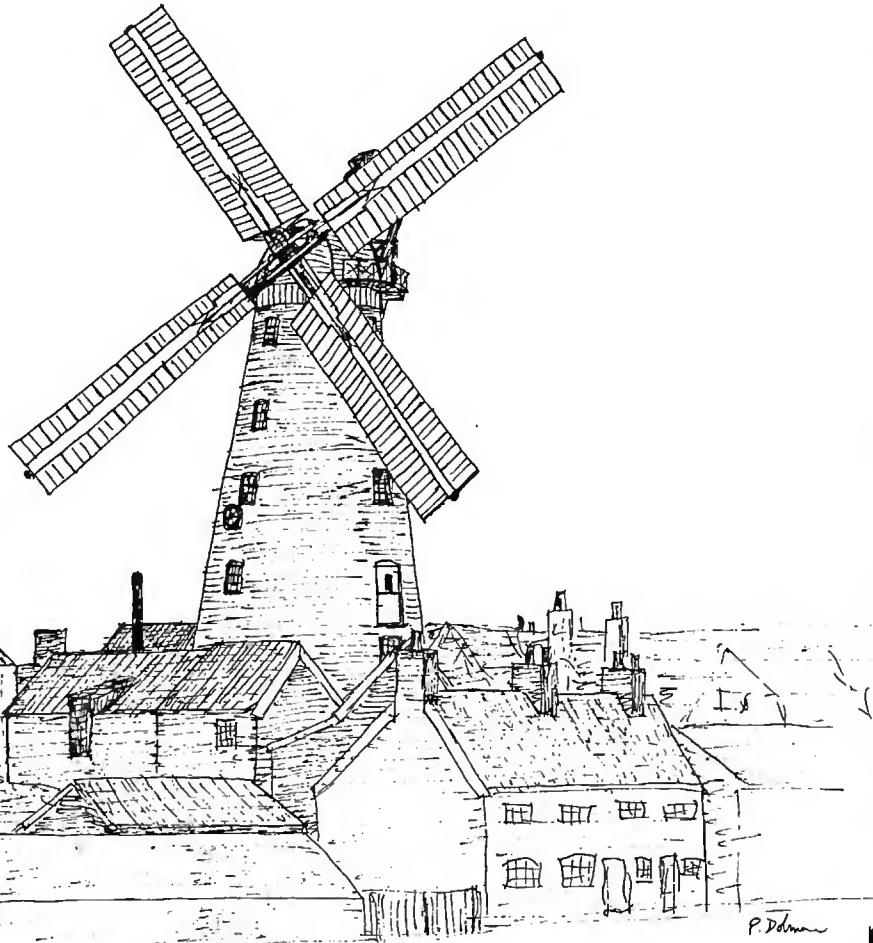
Mark Barnard

## MEMORIES OF TRICKER'S MILL WOODBRIDGE 1970-75

There is nothing like an official notice in the paper to make one suddenly aware that decisions are about to be made on the future of a mill. Notice of proposed demolition by a local council of a listed building in a Conservation Area is enough to spoil breakfast, but when the building is a mill it is worse. Without sails to tell people it was a windmill and standing between the Tide Mill and Buttrum's Mill, both proving very expensive, there was little chance for Tricker's. The tower, in splendid condition with its fine machinery, good curb and cap frame, was the ideal starting-point for a restoration to full working order. The authorities, while sympathetic, obviously could not restore the mill in this way. They also felt there was not sufficient space on the site to allow full restoration without compromise to their scheme for old peoples' housing close to the town centre. It soon became very clear that my idea to restore the mill using a second-hand windshaft would have to be scrapped, and a way found just to keep the tower standing. Thus like so many situations a compromise was reached: it was decided to use the ground floor of the mill as a T.V. and common room with adjoining kitchen and toilet, and to provide a small bedroom for overnight visitors on the meal floor above.

The first plans, while keeping the stone floor and above intact, cut a vast new opening into the tower, removed the fine tenting gear and were ambiguous and unsatisfactory in many ways. After several letters and phone calls, the chief architect of the London-based design team decided to come to Woodbridge one Sunday and sort it out once and for all. It was a crisp clear January (1974) day and we were able to climb out onto the flat roof that had been built over the cap frame after the sails, cap roof, windshaft

Tricker's Mill, Woodbridge  
 From an old Photograph (circa 1905)



EAST SUFFOLK  
 COUNTY COUNCIL  
 TOWN AND COUNTRY  
 PLANNING ACT, 1968  
 CIVIC AMENITIES  
 ACT, 1967  
 PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL  
 DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING  
 DEMOLITION OF TRICKERS  
 MILL, THEATRE STREET,  
 WOODBRIDGE

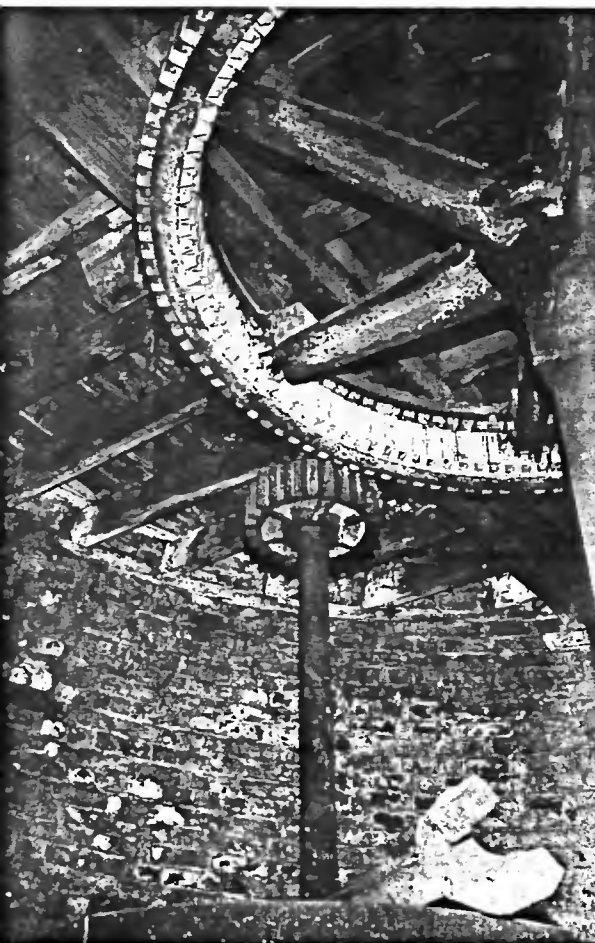
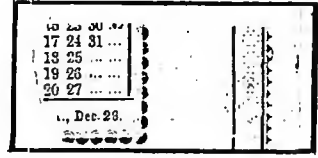
THE County Council as local planning authority have received applications for outline planning permission and Listed Building Consent respectively for proposed residential development at 37-47 Theatre Street and land at the rear, and for the demolition of Trickers Mill, Theatre Street, Woodbridge. The site is in a part of the town included in a "Conservation Area" which the County Council have designated under Section 1 of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967. Conservation Areas are of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

This Notice is also published in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings) Regulations, 1968, as the proposal involves the demolition of Trickers Mill. This building is included in the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest published by the Secretary of State for the Environment under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1962.

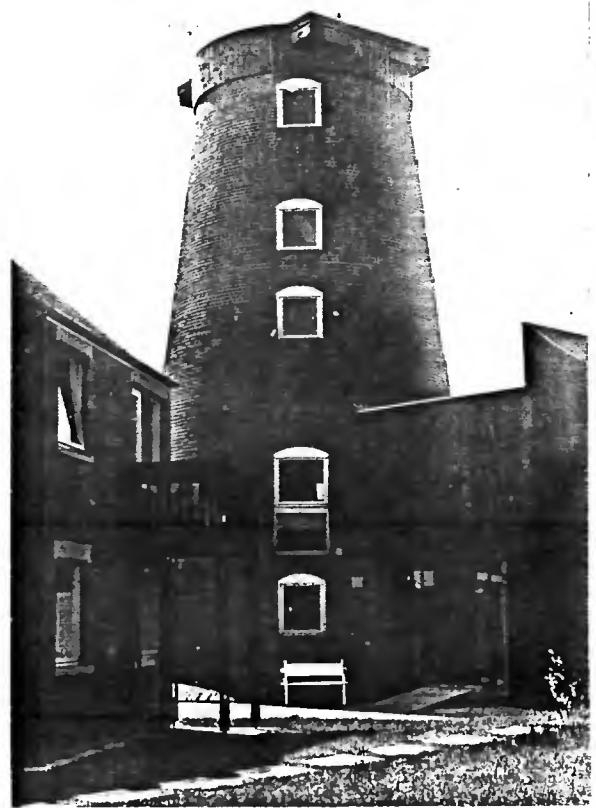
Copies of the applications and of all plans and other documents submitted with them may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of the Woodbridge Urban District Council, Eden Lodge, Woodbridge, or at the County Planning Department, County Hall, Ipswich, during the period of 21 days beginning with the publication of this notice.

Dated 23rd November, 1970.  
 G. C. LIGHTFOOT,  
 Clerk of the County Council,  
 County Hall,  
 Ipswich.

Right: Fragment of old calendar.



Right: Tricker's Mill in 1977.  
 Picture by P. Dolman.



The spur wheel and a quant in Tricker's Mill. M.J. Barnard 1976

and brake wheel had been removed 25 years or so previously. The view was magnificent, with the old streets of Woodbridge, the church and the Tide Mill appearing model-like beside the Deben estuary. The good condition and quality of the tower and the interest of the machinery soon had architect Michael Willis re-thinking his plans. These were modified to conserve all that was there including the cap frame and tentering gear, while the new opening in the meal floor was cut to a safe size and the new layout of common room and bedroom above was an improvement from every point of view.

The only machinery that had to be removed were a late nineteenth century cleaner and a sifter, both slung beneath the meal floor. It seems that in the late nineteenth century there had been a thorough modernisation, representing a last attempt to keep Tricker's Mill in the flour trade. Little sign of wear can be seen on the machinery, the wooden cogs of the spur wheel being in perfect condition. A clue to the date of this work was found in a fragment of calendar (reproduced on the opposite page) printed on a thick card used as a packer when fitting the sifter. It told us that Boxing Day was a Friday, and with the help of a computer we found dates when this occurred, i.e.: 1913, 1902, 1890, 1884, 1879, 1873, 1862, 1856, etc.. Also, pencilled very clearly on a new bin, is: 'W.J. Friend, Hewitt & Co, Nov 2nd 1886'. I imagine the millwrights asked the miller for a piece of card about as thick as a thumbnail for packing. The miller, rummaging through his desk, found an old calendar just the right thickness. So the likely date for the calendar is 1884, but we will never know for sure.

More recent history came to light when meal spouts were found to contain (among other things) coal, acorns and chicken manure! With a good yard and buildings together with transport, coal distribution became a side line for many millers. The spacious interior of the mill made high rise accommodation for hens, whilst during the last war I believe acorns were ground for pig food and even as a coffee substitute!

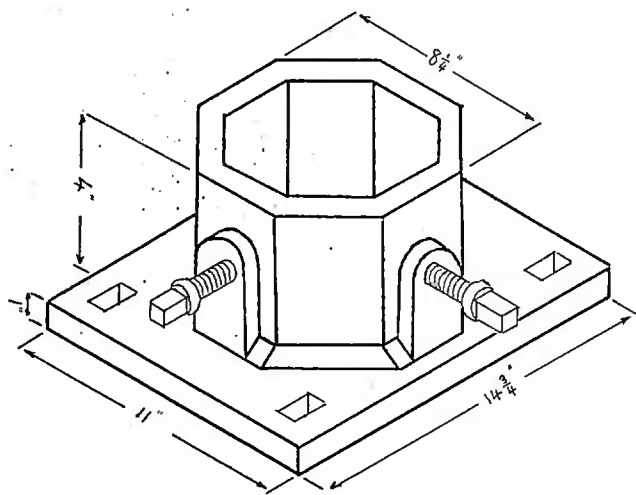
A lot of money was spent on the tower - a set of new windows, a new roof over the cap frame, re-pointing the brickwork and treatment of the interior with Protim - as well as the actual conversion of the ground and meal floors. We cleaned, repaired and painted the tentering gear, re-fitting it with concealed Allen headed grub screws to lock the moving parts for safety. Above the meal floor the mill remains as it was and one day when there is time we hope to carry out more work to the machinery and floors and to fit some unobtrusive labels. I'm glad we stayed with the scheme. The housing is superb in design and quality of materials used. It is splendid to provide homes for old people, at the same time enabling them to retain their independence so close to the centre of the town they know and love. The tower still dominates but I wish it did so as a working mill. Whenever I am there I think of the letter from Woodbridge Council telling me of their decision to keep the tower but leave it at that.

"It is with regret that they cannot accept, in this instance, your offer".

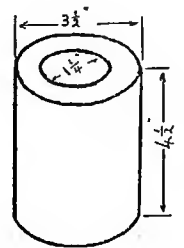
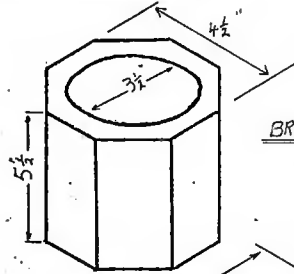
The moving finger writes and having writ moves on .... So must I.

Chris Hullcoop

TRICKERS MILL WOODBRIDGE  
TENTERING GEAR. 1) Fixed parts

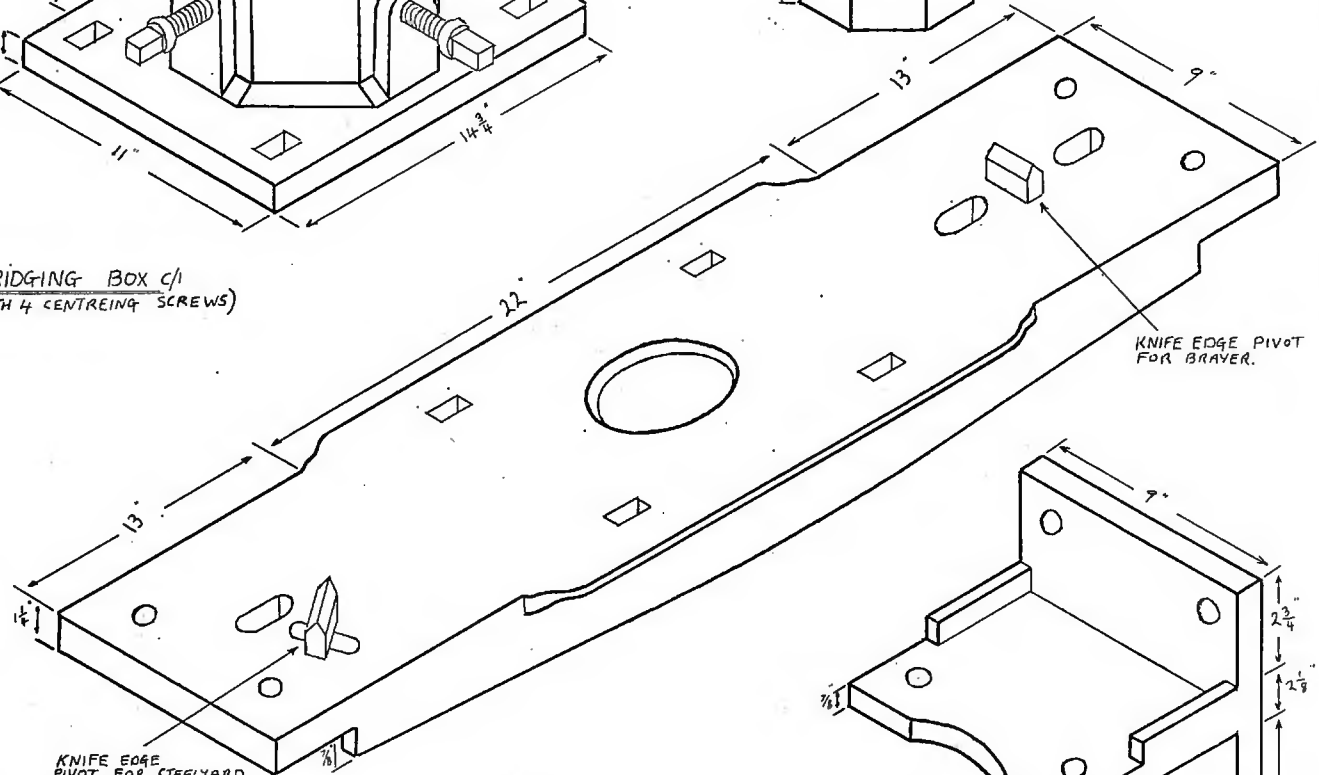


BEARING SLEEVE c/1



BRASS FOOTSTEP BEARING  
 (FOR STONE SPINDLE)

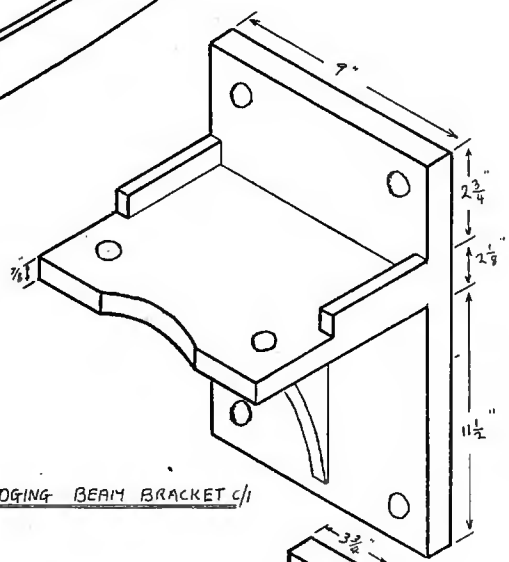
BRIDGING BOX c/1  
 (WITH 4 CENTRING SCREWS)



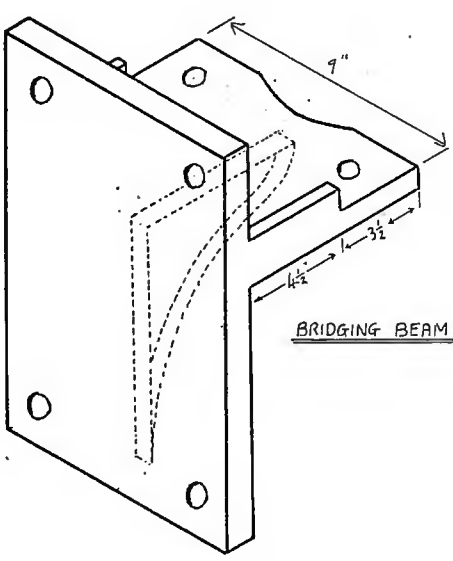
KNIFE EDGE PIVOT FOR STEELYARD  
 (NOT AT 90° TO B-Beam).

KNIFE EDGE PIVOT FOR BRAVER.

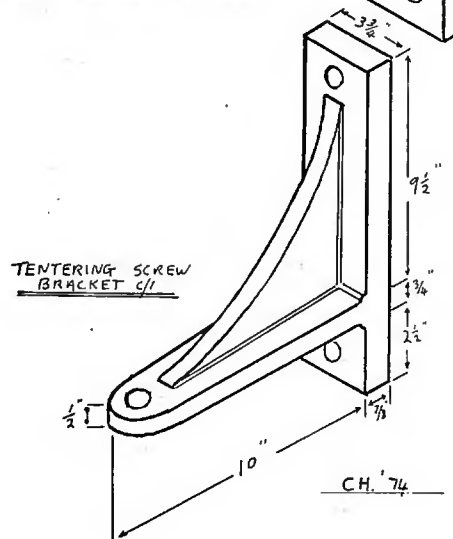
BRIDGING BEAM (c/1)



BRIDGING BEAM BRACKET c/1



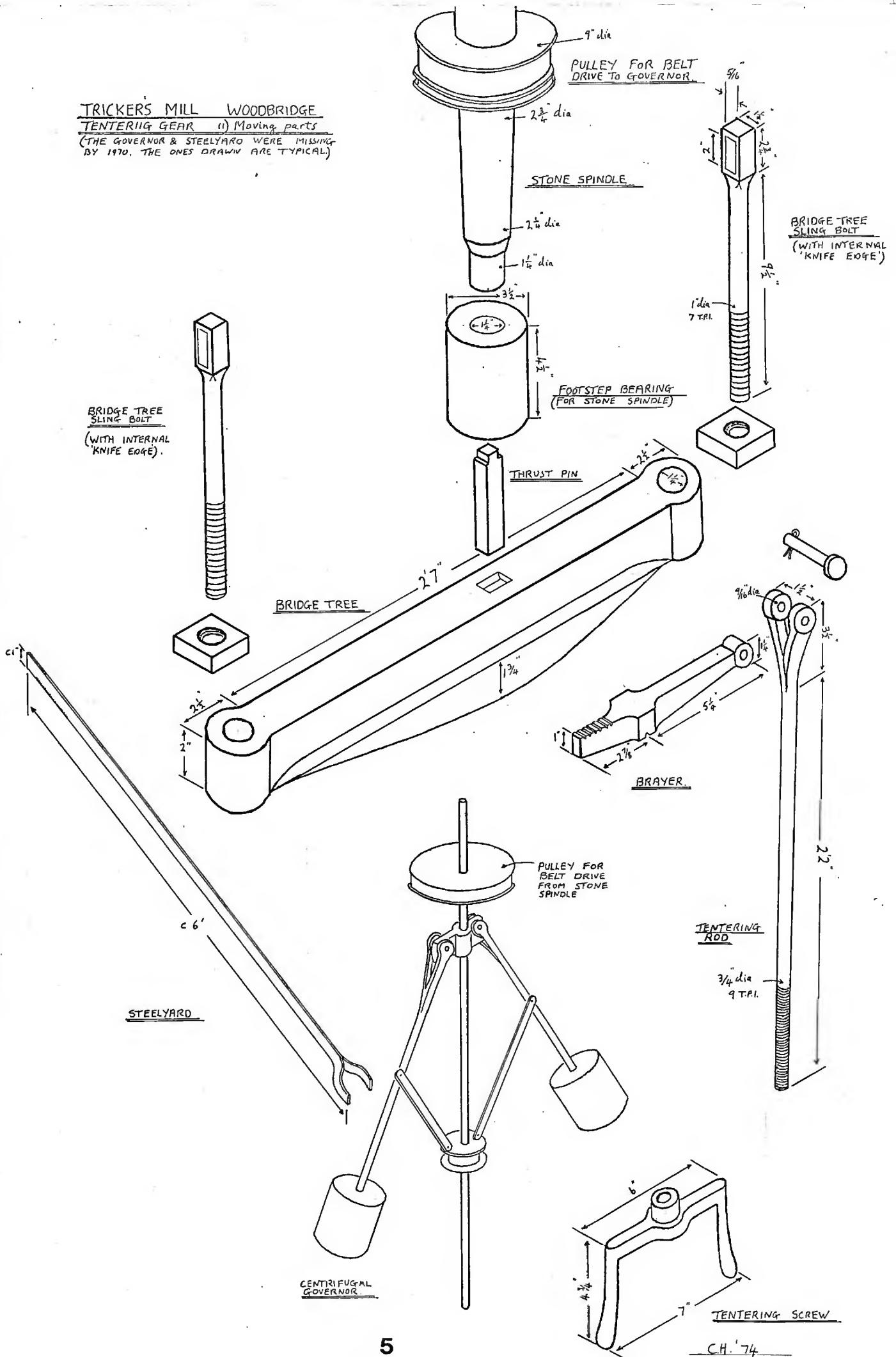
BRIDGING BEAM BRACKET c/1



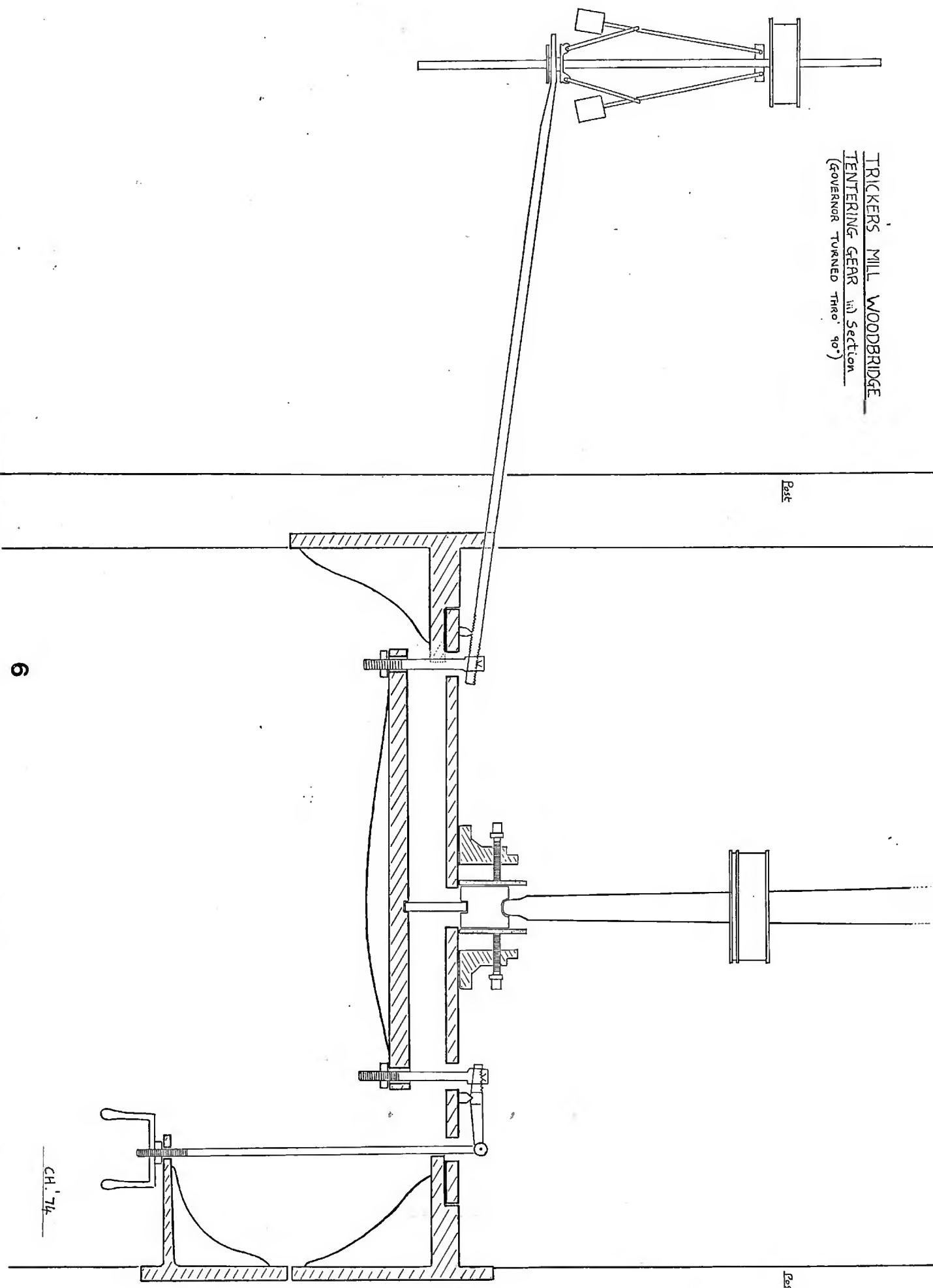
TENTERING SCREW BRACKET c/1

CH. 74

TRICKERS MILL WOODBRIDGE  
 TENTERING GEAR (i) Moving parts  
 (THE GOVERNOR & STEELYARD WERE MISSING  
 BY 1970. THE ONES DRAWN ARE TYPICAL)



TRICKERS MILL, WOODBRIDGE  
TENTERING GEAR (in Section)  
(GOVERNOR TURNED THRO' 90°)



6

CH. 74

Part

Part

## TRICKER'S MILL : A HISTORY

Tricker's Mill (Grid Ref.: TM26876 49163) is dated externally 'W. Mower Feb. 2 1835' but is shown in an engraving made before 1819. The first map to show it is the 1835-7 Ordnance Survey; it seems odd that both Bryant and Greenwood should miss it off their maps of 1823-5 - still, Greenwood managed to miss all four 'Mill Hill' mills in the town (the ones that were moved in the 1840's). He must have had an off day when he 'did' Woodbridge! In the Tithe Apportionment of 1841, Saunder Orsborn is named as owner, also being joint occupant with John Avis. Orsborn was still there in 1854. William Benns was miller in 1868, and Alfred Read in 1885 and 1892. J.S. Tricker was the last miller, work ceasing c.1920. The mill stood disused in good order until after the Second World War, when the windshaft and cap were scrapped. A flat roof was put over the cap frame, which has survived in good condition.

The tower is of red brick, 19 inches thick, and is 23 ft. internal diameter at the base and 14 ft.6 ins. diameter at dust floor level. The floor to floor heights are as follows: ground - first: 8' 0"; first - second (stone floor): 10' 11"; second - third (bin floor): 8' 3"; third - fourth (dust floor): 7' 2"; dust floor - curb: 8' 4". The total height of the tower is 42' 8".

The original cap was domed and was blown off in 1884 (probably on 'Black Tuesday' i.e. January 18th.). It was rebuilt as a strange hybrid of circular base, petticoat and gallery, with boat-shaped roof. The cap frame runs on truck wheels and the centering wheels bear on the outside face of the curb. There was a six bladed fantail which drove via a worm onto the curb. Power came from four anti-clockwise double-shuttered patent sails of nine bays with external striking wheel and tailpole chain guide.

The windshaft was cast iron, as was the brake wheel, which had eight spokes and wooden teeth. The brake was iron. Most of the machinery has survived; the dust floor contains a pulley for the sack hoist chain and the all iron wallower of 40" diameter. The upright shaft is of iron, 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ " square, with concave surfaces. The spur wheel is of iron with 113 wooden teeth of 71" pitch diameter. There is a mortice bevel ring immediately above the spur wheel. This formerly could be driven via an external steam drive pulley. A layshaft takes a slack belt drive to the sack hoist bollard on the bin floor above, the end of the bollard being raised to tighten the belt. Another larger pulley formerly drove to auxiliary machines below. The stones were overdrift, with cast iron stone nuts, all with 24 teeth on iron quants.

There were three pairs of Burr stones; one pair of 4' 4" diameter were removed to a farm at Saxtead in 1937. The remaining pairs are 4' 3" and 4' 4", the latter having Clarke and Dunham Balances dated 1859. There is a constant feed device fitted to one pair of stones. The tentering gear (see accompanying drawings) is very neat and compact, all cast iron, although the governors and steelyards are missing. The bridge trees and the remaining hand-tentering gear now form an attractive feature on the converted first floor. There were formerly two reciprocating machines on the ground floor, one a cleaner, the other a dresser. These had to be removed on conversion and were therefore taken to the Tide Mill granary. A pair of beam scales from the mill has been set up in the Tide

Mill as an exhibit. The present machinery and bin layout appear to be an 1880's replacement of earlier, probably wooden machinery. Although there is no conclusive evidence it was probably done by Collins of Melton as it is unlike the usual Whitmore pattern found, for example, at Buttrum's Mill.

Since 1975 the ground and first floors have been used as a guest bedroom and common room for an old persons' home ('Mussidan Place'), into which the tower has been incorporated. In the course of the conversion, an ugly spiral staircase was appended to the outside to give access to the guest room. However unfortunate the conversion is from the enthusiast's view, we must be grateful that the mill has survived with most of its machinery intact.

Anyone interested in gaining access to the interior of this mill should contact me in the first instance.

Footnote: There may have been a post mill in the same yard as the tower mill for a time. The 1839 Tithe map shows no second mill, but the 1884 Ordnance Survey map shows a second circle about 80 ft. to the north west (at Grid Ref. TM2686 4918). This circle has a diameter of about 22 ft.. Photographs of the 1920's show what appears to be a single storey roundhouse, which had gone by the early 1930's. This could have been a second mill which proved unsuccessful, or may have merely been a circular building. We may never know the full story.

Peter Dolman

## **MORE WORDS ABOUT ELUSIVE WINDMILLS**

Peter Jennings' account of some of the more elusive windmills he had searched out (Newsletter No.2) provided a reminder to me of some which have given more than a little trouble to find during my eight years of survey fieldwork.

Although Suffolk can probably claim more corn windmills than most counties, it has not set the most difficult search problems. This is probably partly due to the fact that Peter Dolman has recently issued a comprehensive grid referenced list of all remaining windmills. Prior to this, I happily thought I had nearly completed the county having reached a number of 50 or more mills (and this is not the only county about whose number of mill sites I have been disillusioned by Peter!).

However, one site at Hadleigh did beat me during a three day cycle tour last October. Flushed with the success of winking out a post mill roundhouse 'camouflaged' in the middle of a large modern power mill at Elmsett, I thought that the next one should be routine, being once again armed with a grid reference and the description 'part of base, forming end of house'. But after searching for a quarter of an hour up all lanes from a crossroad on the eastern border of the town, I had to admit defeat. The only likely site, a house named One Tower Lodge in Tower Mill Lane, did not look remotely as if it incorporated part of a smock mill: so with still many miles to cover, I gave up. I am now glad to say that Peter has assured me that 'all should be revealed' if I inspect this edifice more closely next time.

My best hidden windmill is at Belaugh in Norfolk, although it was clearly



marked on the One Inch O.S. maps of the 1970's. The country lane ended at a large farmhouse south of the village. My wife, companion Peter Elms and I got out of the car but could see no windmill. The obliging owners pointed across two grassy fields towards a copse and said be careful of the wet marshy ground. Our shoes and trousers were rather damp and muddy before we finally spotted the mill (a drainage tower) about 30 yards away as a stumpy and rather bulky object completely covered in ivy, looking much like the other trees amongst which it was half hidden: not a particularly inspiring object. In fact a more exciting find for me at that time, in the long wet grass of the adjoining field, was a local wild flower called Orange Balsam.

This year my annual tour in East Sussex provided some tricky searches. In this county, as in Suffolk, I am now down to the smock mill bases and post mill roundhouses mostly converted into sheds and cottages - some are certainly elusive. In Hastings one of the three sites is a smock mill base conversion at Ore. I knew it must be near, but as none of the houses appeared to betray smock mill origins, I asked a man giving his child a swing on a small green adjoining the housing estate, but he knew of nothing (so often the case). Then within 20 yards I came upon a white square house with extension called 'Black Mill'. The owners confirmed its former identity with a framed photo (hung in the hall) of a fine smock mill in its working days. In the subsequent conversion the remaining octagonal brick base had been squared off. A site at Malling in Lewes presented similar difficulties. I cycled up the hill to the top of Mill Road and enquired of two residents getting into their car without success. However, further ferreting around at the bottom of the road revealed Malling Mill in a sort of cul-de-sac; a one storey roundhouse cottage completely hidden from the outside by a high boarded fence and many shrubs. The owner gave me permission to take photographs, if somewhat nervously. This latter reaction from a few people makes me realise that to some my appearance may seem slightly eccentric - a middle aged man in shorts and shirt with a rucksack on his back with a sports cycle and often in need of a shave! Children however seldom worry about my appearance as shown by a friendly little girl at Sweffling, Suffolk. She was playing with her brother in front of a roundhouse (while her mother anxiously tried to move them out of my camera viewfinder) and quite spontaneously came up and offered me her last piece of chewing gum. At another site in Suffolk an old lady offered me a bed for the night on hearing I still had 50 miles to cycle (at three o'clock in the afternoon) before reaching home.

These are just a few of the ways in which windmill surveys in the field have provided me with interesting challenges as well as enriching human experience.

Arthur C. Smith

## BOOK REVIEWS

'The Diary of Thomas King of Thelnetham' by Sylvia Colman (in 'THE SUFFOLK REVIEW' Vol.5 No.5 Summer 1977. Published by the Suffolk Local History Council. Price: 60p.)

Thomas King was a carpenter who lived at Thelnetham, between Thetford and Diss, from 1766 to 1838. His diary, which runs from 1804 to 1838, provides a rare glimpse of rural life at the very local level, often mentioning obscure events which would otherwise

have gone unrecorded. Thomas King's keen interest in windmills is one of the main themes running through the diary - there are nearly 40 references to mills in all. There is also much comment on the weather and its effects on farming. The original entries - generally in note form - have been supplemented by explanatory notes, those on windmills being supplied by Brian Flint and Philip Unwin. Among the many of interest are:

'Mr Bakers Post Mill at Stanton raised on Saturday Aug.21 1824 I walked on the Roof tree when finished 48 feet from the Lower floor'-refers to Stanton Chair mill, whose roundhouse still remains, and 'raised' means built.

'Mr Buttons new mill on Thelnetham Fen set to work Christmas day Dec 25 1819 Thos King there'-refers to the present derelict tower mill.

'Hopton Mill made to turn itself into the wind Mar 24 1824'-records the fitting of a fantail to an existing mill.

This is the first time the complete diary has been published, although the windmill entries were published in the 1950's. The present version is taken from a transcript made in 1919, and there is some doubt as to whether the original diary is still extant. The diary, together with the interpretive essay by Sylvia Colman, should provide interesting material for local history students.

Another article in the same copy of the 'Review' ('This was Lavenham' by K.M.A. Carter) devotes some lines to the three windmills which once stood in this small Suffolk town. The author might have mentioned that the lower half of one of the tower mills still stands.

'The Suffolk Review' is available from the Suffolk Local History Council, Community Council for Suffolk, County Hall, Ipswich IP4 2JS; 60p. plus postage.

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'WINDMILLS IN WARWICKSHIRE' by Wilfred A. Seaby and Arthur C. Smith. Published by Warwickshire Museum; 1977. Price: 75p.

This is the latest title in an attractive series of contemporary surveys of the windmill population of English counties. It follows the format of its predecessors, with a particularly good historical introduction, notes and photographs of the 16 surviving mills and remains in the county, distribution map and brief notes on some of the mills which have disappeared. It is encouraging to read that the Warwickshire Museum have been carrying out a comprehensive historical survey of the county's windmills, and that some 300 sites have been identified. Most mill losses since the war seem to have been through pressure for housing development. No post mills now remain, the last to stand being the Danzey Green example, now re-erected at the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings at Stoke Prior in neighbouring Worcestershire (but illustrated in the book). Remains of another post mill at Baxterley Common also survived until about 1969. Luckily four fine tower mills do survive more or less complete - Chesterton, Balsall Common, Tysoe and Norton Lindsey, and one hopes the derelict Harbury tower will not follow Rowington, now being converted into a house.

In all, perhaps the best publication in the series so far, and certainly the only readily available guide to the county's windmills.

M.J.B.

## LANCASHIRE MILLS

The following correspondence was received from Mr. D.S.H. Paterson (365, Brentwood Road, Romford, Essex) and Mr. K.J. Paterson (49, Sunnyside, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex), concerning Lancashire mills.

We note with interest that Peter Jennings (Newsletter No.2) asks for up-to-date information on the present condition of certain windmills in Lancashire, Cheshire and Merseyside, - as we have recently begun a study of those in Lancashire (old county). We have just completed a preliminary survey of documentary resources as the foundations of a check list to be built on by visits to the sites. This survey has revealed a total of 67 windmills and four possible sites which include 41 sites in S.W. Lancashire, 24 in the Fylde and one in Furness on the Isle of Walney. Twelve of these mills are post mills, 25 are tower mills and one is a smock mill, and 29 are unidentified as to type. None of these post mills now exist, but at least 19 tower mills still survive and some 6 of these have been converted to houses, 3 are preserved and 2 in the Fylde have been restored.

We have visited the following sites in 1977:

Bickerstaffe Windmill is situated on Mill Moor (N.G.Ref. SD442048) between Bickerstaffe village and Stanley Gate in S.W. Lancashire. Until recently it belonged to Lord Derby's Estate but was sold in 1976 for conversion to a house. It is a preserved shell of a brick tower mill with 4 floors, without a cap but covered off by a conical slate roof.

Originally it had a boat-shaped cap with a straight ridge and was luffed into wind by a huge windlass wheel at the back of the cap with an endless chain reaching to the ground. It was driven by four common sails which appear to be mounted on a cross. Our photograph of a painting showing Bickerstaffe Mill in 1871 also shows an extensive steam plant with a tall chimney, of which nothing now exists. The mill was last worked by a miller called Bates, and some of the villagers remember corn being ground there possibly in the 1920's. There is the remnant of what appears to be a mill mound which may point to an earlier post mill once being on the site.

Lydiate Windmill is situated at Windmill Nursery, Liverpool Road, just off the A59 S.W. of Lydiate (N.G.Ref. SD379039) and appears to be a brick (?) tower c.40 ft. high painted white, converted to a house. The tower has been braced, and is without a cap, having been roofed off at the curb with a flat roof. New windows have been inserted and building extensions have been added. There is little to identify it as a former windmill.

Scarth Hill Windmill no longer exists but the site is still visible between two sandstone quarries and is dominated by a modern water tower which replaces a Victorian brick tower. The site is owned by the Southport, Birkdale and West Lancashire Water Board. The Mill House and the former 'Windmill Inn' still exist, built of sandstone and roofed with heavy incaceous sandstone flags quarried locally.

Ormskirk Windmill stood at the end of Mill Street, between Moor Street End (Westhead Road) and Rough (Ruff) Lane, west of Ormskirk at 2°52'40" W., 53°33'54.5" N. and is shown on the First Edition of the 1:10,560 (6") Ordnance Survey sheet 92 surveyed in 1845-6 and published in 1849. As far as we could ascertain nothing exists except the site.

## WOODBIDGE MEETING

A smaller than expected turnout of five Members met at the 'Bell and Steelyard' P.H. in Woodbridge on January 1st. to sample the fine 'real ale' of the Adnams (Southwold) Brewery. We eventually trooped out to view Tricker's Mill (see elsewhere in this Newsletter) where we were joined by Bob Shackle and family. We spent an hour or so looking over the mill (or watching colour telly on the ground floor!). Those that came found it very interesting and we thank the Warden, Mr. Osborne, for allowing us to see inside.

Peter Dolman

# NEWS

## CROSSWORD RESULTS

I received eight entries to my crossword published in the last Newsletter; of these, four were incorrect. Correct entries were received from Mark Barnard, Eric Dymott, Mrs. Rosemary Dennis and Alan Wallis. The names went into a hat (the Chairman's crash helmet actually!) and the lucky winner drawn by Chris Hullcoop is: Mrs. Rosemary Dennis. An entry from Robert Stevens unfortunately had to be disqualified as it arrived after the closing date, although it was correct.

The answers to the clues were as follows:

Across 1 MILLENTHUSIASTS; 8 CROOK; 11 ARCH; 13 MILL; 14 BAR; 15 GATES; 16 STEAM; 17 KEY; 18 TARRED; 20 SHADES; 22 GREASE; 23 RADDLE or REDDLE; 25 ENTERS or EXISTS; 26 UPLONG; 27 BURR; 28 SPUR.

Down 1 MILLWRIGHT; 2 LAG; 3 NECK; 4 HOOP; 5 SOKE; 6 AIR; 7 SAILFRAMES; 9 QUARTER; 10 POLLEND; 12 MACE; 19 DRESSER; 20 SHROUDS; 21 WHEEL; 22 GREAT; 24 ERGOT.

Thanks to those Members who had a go; perhaps I'll do another one later this year.

Peter Dolman

## INTER-CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

The original idea of an integrated East Anglian Mills Group (see Newsletter No.1) has finally been (partially) realised. We have agreed to interchange information, publications, etc., with the Cambridgeshire Wind and Watermill Society and the Friends of Norfolk Windmills. In addition, we are swapping information, etc. with the West Midlands Mills Group.

We (S.M.G.) have also joined the Suffolk Preservation Society and hope they will reciprocate.

The result of this is that the Secretary now receives all Newsletters, etc. from these societies and they are kept on S.M.G. files. If any of our Members would like to see this information they are welcome to call in on the Secretary (address on p.1) or, if distance prevents this, a stamped-addressed envelope will furnish you with a copy. Brief details of events organised by the other groups will also be given in the S.M.G. Newsletter (see below).

The Committee are thinking about affiliation to the S.P.A.B. but we feel this should be discussed by the membership at the A.G.M..

## EAST BRIDGE MILL: RE-ERECTION AT ABBOT'S HALL MUSEUM, STOWMARKET

Our chances of seeing this windpump re-erected get better every day. The rebuilding has been estimated at £32,000 by Jameson Marshall Ltd., and the Abbot's Hall Museum of East Anglian Life have been busy fund raising. Nothing is settled yet, but the Science Museum has hinted at a 50% grant, and the Historic Buildings Council may also contribute. The Friends of the Museum have promised a grant of £1000; also Geoffrey Wilding, the museum's director, has painted a fine picture of the mill which the museum are going to raffle. This money will be used for ancillary expenses in connection with the mill, such as ditches and flumes together with any extra expenses in the mill itself such as lighting, displays, etc..

### ALTON MILL

Also about to happen at Abbot's Hall Museum is the provision of a mill pond to drive the re-erected Alton Mill. This is being sponsored by the Job Creation Scheme and should get started this summer. The pond is being designed to allow the mill to grind for two hours continuously and will be puddled with clay. Water will be pumped up from the river by a submersible pump which is being paid for by the County Council. Once installed, it will fill the pond in several hours running, and can be kept going while the mill is working to make the supply last longer. Running costs are about the same as an electric fire!

### KERSEY MILL

Members who are familiar with this large, very derelict watermill on the River Brett will be interested to hear that it has been the subject of an architect's report commissioned by Babergh District Council. As yet the Council has not committed itself to serving a Repairs Notice on the owner under the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act (which could lead to the Council purchasing the mill if it continues to decay), but if the architect's proposals are implemented, it is believed the structure of the mill would be restored and converted into two dwellings at a total cost of £50,000. The mill is a Grade II\* listed building, and forms an important group together with the adjacent Mill House, maltings and drying kiln.

## EVENTS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

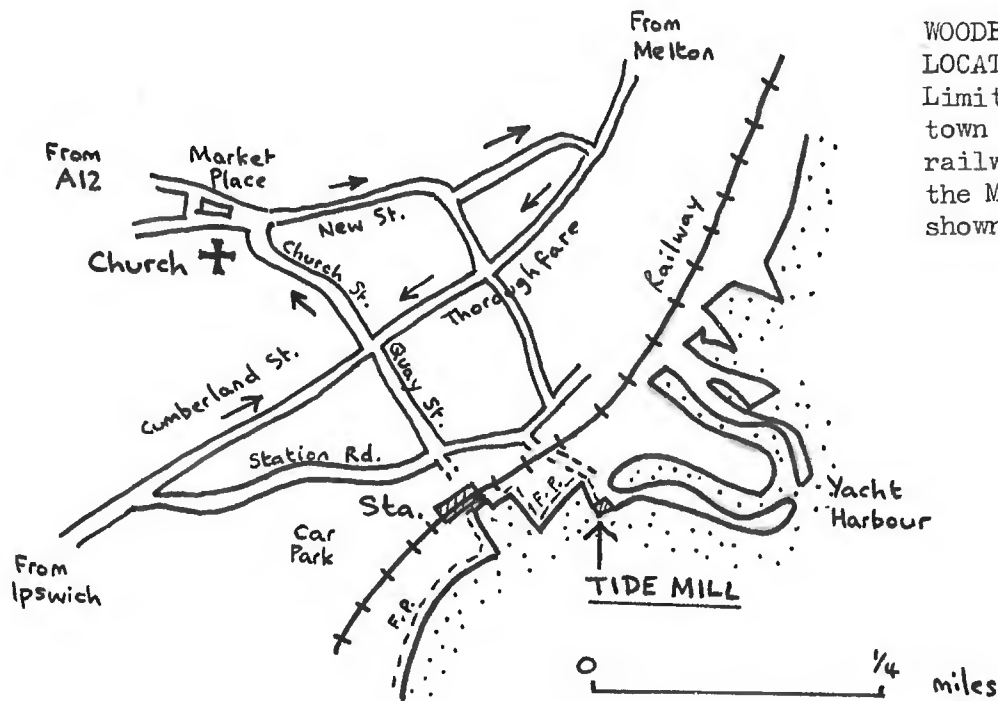
Our A.G.M. will be held at the Tide Mill, Woodbridge on Sunday 23rd. April 1978. The Meeting will start at 11.00 a.m., enabling us to finish in time to allow visits to the other mills in Woodbridge (Buttrum's Mill and Tricker's Mill). We hope Members will be able to spend the whole day in Woodbridge together with their families, bringing a pic-nic lunch; alternatively there are several pubs in the area where food can be obtained. A location plan is provided overleaf.

Please note that this constitutes the formal notice for the A.G.M. as required by our Constitution. Any resolutions from Members must reach me at least 21 days before the Meeting; these will go in 'Any Other Business'.

### Agenda

1. Report on the year from the Committee Members (illustrated with slides).
2. Presentation of Accounts. .
3. Elections of Officers and Committee for the coming year.
4. Ratification (or otherwise) of change of membership rules.
5. Any Other Business.
6. Film 'Turn to the Wind' by Alan Willmott.
7. Close. Inspection of Tide Mill and Woodbridge windmills.

Peter Dolman  
(Hon. Secretary)



WOODBRIDGE TIDE MILL  
LOCATION PLAN  
Limited parking on  
town centre side of  
railway line near  
the Mill, or at C.P.  
shown.

VISIT TO ABBEY MILL, COGGESHALL; SUNDAY MAY 21st. 1978, from 2.30 p.m.

Mr. Roy Ward has invited us to visit his splendid watermill on the River Blackwater at Coggeshall, near Colchester. Over the last few months the wheel has been repaired and in February worked one of the four pairs of French stones again. The mill is located at Grid Ref. 856222, down a lane leading eastwards off the B1024 Kelvedon - Coggeshall road (see map below). This is a joint visit with the Ipswich & District Historical Transport Society.



FELIXSTOWE ROLLER MILLS VISIT

Our visit to the R.H.M. Roller Mills at Felixstowe will take place early in summer, probably on a week day evening. Details in the next Newsletter.

HOXNE MILL VISIT

We hope to arrange a visit to this immaculate watermill in north Suffolk sometime in June. Again, further details in the next Newsletter.

RAMSEY WORK-IN: 2nd. - 17th. SEPTEMBER 1978

The final session of the 'Holding Operation' will involve repairs to the sails and tidying up generally. If any Member can spare some time would they contact Chris Hullcoop at 42, High Road West, Felixstowe, Suffolk.

BUTTRUM'S MILL, WOODBRIDGE

We will be holding 'work ins' at this fine tower mill during the summer, to tidy it up and to label it for visitors. Further details in next Newsletter.

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The following events have been notified to us from other mill groups:

FRIENDS OF NORFOLK WINDMILLS A.G.M. : FRIDAY MAY 5th. AT 7.30 p.m.

FoNW are holding their A.G.M. at Norwich Central Library (on the Market Square). A guest speaker will be talking after the business is over. All S.M.G. Members are invited to attend.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE WIND AND WATERMILL SOCIETY - WORKING PARTY AT LODGE WATERMILL: SUNDAY  
2nd. APRIL

Our associates in Cambridgeshire will be beginning their restoration project at Lode Watermill (near Anglesey Abbey), 6 miles north-east of Cambridge. The ultimate aim is to get the mill working and to open it to the public (it is owned by the National Trust). The work on Sunday will be to dig the wheel out from its silt and to get it turning freely. Anyone interested in lending a hand should turn up at the mill armed with boots, shovel and packed lunch at 10.00 a.m..

WEST MIDLANDS MILLS GROUP - EVENTS

The following visits have been arranged by the Group. For further details contact the Secretary (see list of new S.M.G. Members below).

Friday 19th. May; 7.45 p.m. Visit to watermill at Newnham Bridge, nr. Tenbury Wells.

Saturday 3rd. June. Trip to Derbs. and Notts., including North Leverton mill.

Saturday 17th. June. Trip to Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Wales.

Saturday 15th. July. Visit to mills of Monnow Basin

Saturday 16th. September. Visit to mills in Staffordshire, inc. working ones.

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NEW MEMBERS: 1.12.77 to 28.2.78

WEST MIDLANDS MILLS GROUP (Corp.)

Secretary: John Bedington, 188, Merrivale Road, Smethwick, West Midlands  
Tel.: 021 - 420 - 1280 (home); 021 - 454 - 5131 (work)

(Interchange of information with ourselves)

BINKS, Steven (F)

Auberries Farm Cottage, Bulmer, Sudbury

(Restoring and recording)

BURROUGH, V.H. (P)

94, Harvist Road, Kensal Rise, London NW6 6HL  
Tel.: 01 - 960 - 0303 (home); 01 - 960 - 0111 (work)

FRIENDS OF NORFOLK WINDMILLS (Corp.)

Secretary: Chris Seago, 33, Acacia Road, Thorpe St. Andrew, Norwich  
Tel.: 0602 - 34351

(Interchange of information with ourselves)

HARVEY, Rev. Viv A. (F)  
88, Westway, Wimbotsham, Kings Lynn, Norfolk  
Tel.: Downham Market 2120

NUNN, R.J. (P)  
41, Crofton Road, Ipswich

SALMON, John (F)  
Depperhaugh House, Hoxne, Diss  
Tel.: Stradbroke 236

(History of windmills)

SLAUGHTER, Richard M. (F)  
6, Park Lane, Bulmer Tye, Sudbury  
Tel.: Sudbury 74606

WALLES, Rex (F)  
Davidge Cottage, Knotty Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks.  
Tel.: Beaconsfield 4088

(Technical aspects of all mills)

WHEELER, R.A. (F)  
The Watermill, Hoxne, Diss  
Tel.: 01-588-2851 (work); 01-373-3890 (home week-days) or Hoxne 314

CAMBRIDGESHIRE WIND & WATERMILL SOCIETY (Corp.)  
Secretary: G.C. Wilson, The Mill, Longstanton Road, Over, Cambs.  
Tel.: Swavesey 30742

(Interchange of information with ourselves)

The December list of Members should be corrected as follows:

D.M. Peek's address should read 'Bridgwater Road' not 'Bridgewater Road'

'Adrian SKEOCH' should read 'Aidan SKEOCH'

