

SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter Number 5

MAY 1978

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

This Newsletter marks S.M.G.'s first birthday, a time to reflect on the past year and to look ahead to the future. We have held a number of successful events through the year which I won't describe now as those of you who have been Members since last summer will have read all the reports in previous Newsletters.

Regarding the future, it looks like we have a fairly quiet summer ahead, but we are trying to organize visits and at least one indoor meeting before winter. We have been invited to go to Pakenham windmill again, so this might be a useful event in August. For those who like to work on mills, this year sees the final phase of Ramsey's Holding Operation, capably organised by the hard-working Chris Hullcoop, and (hopefully) the small working party at Buttrum's Mill, Woodbridge. Future projects are lined up (if there is sufficient support) at Pakenham watermill and Syleham mill, the latter a fine head and tail post mill but unfortunately with most of a post mill's ailments! More on these projects in due course.

Being a year old, its time for many of our 'founder' Members to renew their subscriptions. Reminder forms are included for those who renew in June and July. As you will see from the A.G.M. report, the subscription rate for Full Membership is going up, subject to S.P.A.B. affiliation. So far we have not had a decision from the S.P.A.B. so therefore the old rate remains for the time being. Renew now and save money!

Our Membership stands at 61 at present, not a bad number, but I still think there is room for expansion. I am therefore sending out a membership form to every Member, in the hope that a friend or relative might be persuaded to join S.M.G.. We especially want Members in west Suffolk; at present a large proportion of our Membership comprises S.P.A.B. Members living outside the county.

May I, on behalf of Editor Mark Barnard, make another plea for material for the Newsletter? The Chairman, Secretary and Editor are getting tired of reading their own articles! I'm sure many of our Members could contribute items which would be of considerable interest, be it serious research or memories of a day's mill hunting which didn't turn out quite as expected (and we've all had plenty of those!). How about it?

Finally, I must thank the members of the Committee for their sterling efforts on behalf of the Society during the year. We've now lost Bob Shackle as Treasurer due to family commitments but not before he produced our accounts for the year which you will find enclosed with this Newsletter. They show a rosy picture, although since they were prepared we have spent another £20 or so. Nevertheless we are well 'in the black' and now have some capital behind us. The accounts were audited by John Williams, an

accountant at Bury St. Edmunds. He did not ask for a fee but suggested we send a £2.50 donation to a cause in which he has an interest. The Committee have therefore decided to send the donation to the Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth.

The Committee for 1978-9 is:-

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Editor: Mark Barnard, 41, Melbourne Road, Ipswich.

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Tel. Badingham 309 (home); Ipswich 642827 (office hours)

Des Codd, 21, Millfield, Stowmarket.

Tel. Stowmarket 5175 (home)

One vacancy (to be co-opted)

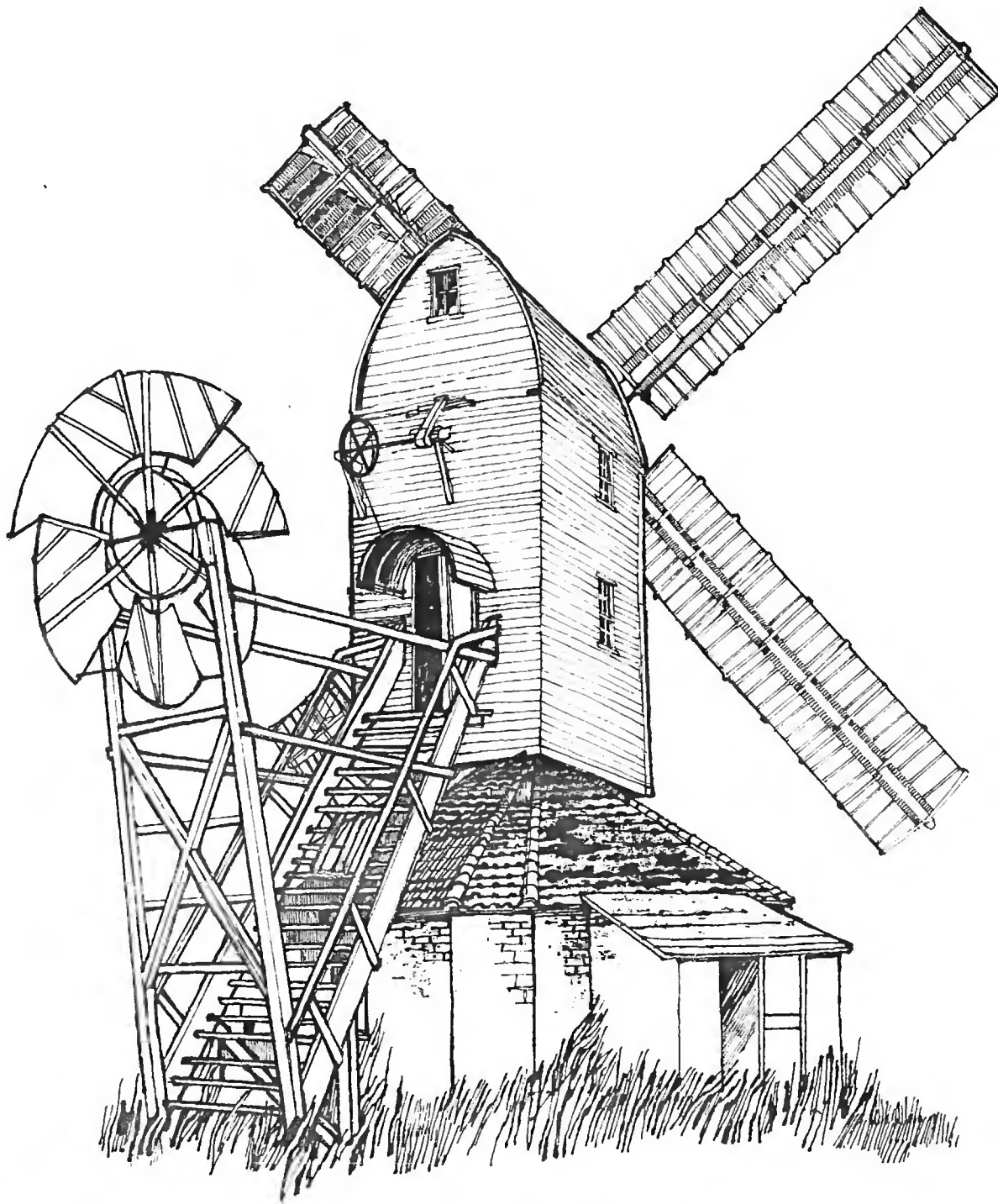
P.C.J. Dolman

(Hon. Secretary)

THORPENESS MILL

The month of June will see the attractive restored post mill at Thorpeness open to the public for its first summer season as a tourist information centre. Extensive displays of material relating to the Suffolk 'Heritage Coast' have been set up in the round-house, while in the buck there are further display boards telling visitors how the mill works, its history, and also showing photographs of other mills in the locality both past and present. To their credit, the section of the County Planning Department who were responsible for designing the exhibition were quick to seek the advice of the two resident mill experts in the building (namely Peter Dolman and myself), and in fact we were responsible for the windmill displays (ensuring at the same time that S.M.G. receives a mention at what is a potentially valuable publicity point!).

Thorpeness Mill should prove a considerable attraction to visitors, for, apart from being located in a popular small seaside resort, the mill itself has a unique history. It was built as a corn mill at Aldringham village, two miles north west of Thorpeness (Grid Ref.443608) in 1803, and worked there until 1922. J. Waller is given as miller in 1858, F. Skoulding in 1880, and John Oxborrow is listed in 1896, 1916 and 1925. The main post of the mill is inscribed '2 PARKE 1886'. In 1922 the Thorpeness Estate, who owned the mill, decided to move it to its present location, to form an attractive feature at the 'model' seaside village which was being laid out. The mill was converted to pump water to the adjacent water tower known as the House in the



"Thorpeness Mill" by Christina News
(reproduced by courtesy of Suffolk C.C. Planning Department)

Clouds, a task that had previously been undertaken by a large annular-sailed windpump. The conversion from corn mill to pump entailed boring a hole through the main post (three days' work), through which the pump rod passed to the pump situated in the roundhouse. The existing windshaft, brakewheel and wallower were retained, a short lay-shaft being driven off the upright shaft, ending in a disc into which a crank pin was fitted to provide the vertical motion for the pump rod. The mill originally drove two pairs of 4' 2" diameter burr stones in the head. The whole mill was dismantled for the move, which was completed in the winter of 1922-23. Ted Friend, the estate carpenter

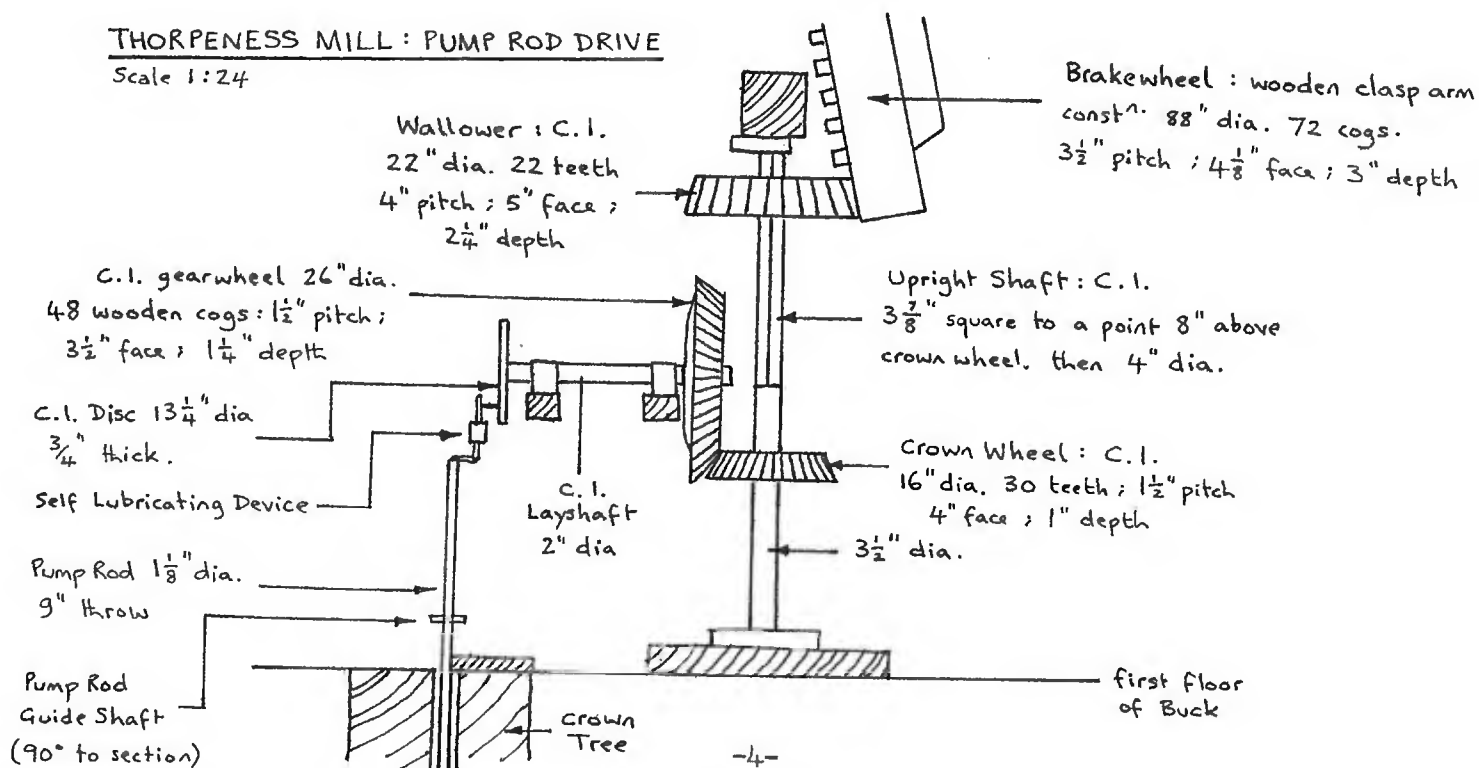
and millwright carried out the work, together with Amos Clarke, a millwright from Ipswich.

Set on its new square pantiled 'roundhouse', the mill worked regularly until the outbreak of World War II, pumping up to 1800 gallons an hour into the House in the Clouds water tower. After the war the mill was preserved in static condition, but inevitably deteriorated. In May 1972 the fantail was blown down in a gale, and one sail was also damaged, while in 1974 a heath fire damaged one stock and destroyed the upper sail. This led to concern over the future of the mill, and a survey was carried out to assess the need for repairs. A restoration to working order was completed by Jameson Marshall Ltd. between mid 1976 and April 1977, at a cost of £12,000. Of this, Suffolk Coastal District Council gave a grant of £3,000, while the owners, Thorpeness Ltd., contributed the remainder, helped by Countryside Commission grants totalling £6,400. The restoration work included repairs to the weather beam, a new front sill beam, renewal of the sheers at their front ends, a complete new fantail assembly including fan carriage and ladder, and renewal of the double shuttered patent sails. Suffolk County Council purchased the mill in 1977 after Thorpeness Ltd. went into liquidation.

The mill will be allowed to turn when open to the public, but the pump is not connected to the drive rod. The pump itself has been cleaned and painted to form an attractive feature in the centre of the roundhouse, while the well has been illuminated and fitted with a transparent cover! Because of the danger of moving machinery, visitors will not be allowed onto the upper floor of the buck, although the gearing will be visible from a gallery at the top of the stairs.

The mill opens from 26th. June, afternoons only Monday to Friday and all day at weekends and on Bank Holidays. Visitors will be encouraged to park in the car park in the village and walk up the track to the mill. Admission fees have yet to be decided.

M.J.B.



A.G.M. REPORT 1978

There was an encouraging turnout of 19 S.M.G. Members plus four 'others' for the first Annual General Meeting of the Group held at Woodbridge Tide Mill on Sunday April 23rd. (although this total swelled to about 40 for the afternoon session).

The Meeting opened at 11.20 a.m.. After a brief opening address, Chairman Chris Hullcoop went on to give an illustrated review of the Group's work over the past year, including the sessions at Ramsey and East Bridge, the visits to Pakenham and Garboldisham mills, the public meeting at Ipswich and the Group's comments on planning applications. Opportunities for future work were then outlined, comprising mainly small-scale projects such as replacing the brake lever and tidying / labelling at Buttrum's Mill, Woodbridge, and work to the gear of Pakenham watermill. The latter mill, now owned by the Suffolk Preservation Society, would be a particularly worthwhile project, but the Chairman pointed out the Group must be careful not to take on too much work bearing in mind the limited number of Members willing to participate and see through practical projects.

The Secretary, Peter Dolman, told the Meeting that S.M.G. now had 61 paid-up Members, and membership was still steadily increasing. Editor Mark Barnard reviewed the Group's publishing activities, in particular the four Newsletters issued and the intended series of mill guides, the first of which, on Dalham Mill, having already proved a commercial success. S.M.G. Treasurer Bob Shackle presented the Group's accounts for the year (copy enclosed).

The Meeting then ratified the Committee decision to abolish Family Membership (see Newsletter No.3), and received a resolution from M.J. Barnard that S.M.G. become affiliated to the S.P.A.B.. Following some debate centering around the exact benefits to S.M.G., it was resolved that S.M.G. become affiliated to the Wind and Watermill Section of S.P.A.B., subject to:-

1. 10% of S.M.G. subscriptions being deducted to S.P.A.B. only in respect of those S.M.G. Members who were not already members of the Wind and Watermill Section;
2. S.M.G. being allowed a representative on the Wind and Watermill Section Committee of S.P.A.B..

This resolution was seconded by Margaret Wells and carried on a show of hands by 14 votes to 1. The Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.45 p.m..

After lunch the Chairman presented Rosemary Dennis with the prize for the crossword competition, a framed watercolour of Sapiston watermill. There then followed a lively discussion on the important question of insurance for the Group. John Snowdon suggested this was desirable, and the Secretary said that Third Party insurance would cost about £10 per annum. This led on to a discussion about subscription rates for the coming year. A proposal by P. Dolman that 'Newsletter Only' Membership be increased from £1.50 to £2.00 to cover the cost of insurance was seconded by Cliff Lovett, and carried on a show of hands. Mike Organ proposed an increase in ordinary Membership from £2.50 to £3.00, but this was 'discussed down' to £2.75. This rate was agreed by Mike Organ and seconded by Brian Flint, and carried. (N.B. This increase is, however,

subject to S.P.A.B. affiliation being adopted).

Debate was temporarily adjourned when the S.P.A.B. Windmill Certificate was handed to S.M.G. Chairman Chris Hullcoop by the Secretary. Chris Hullcoop then returned a short (and typically modest) address.

Margaret Wells proposed that the existing S.M.G. Committee (with the exception of the Treasurer, who was resigning) be re-elected for the coming year. No objections were raised by those in question and this was agreed. The Secretary told the Meeting there were still three vacancies on the Committee, including now the post of Treasurer, and invited volunteers. John Snowdon and Des Codd put their names forward and were seconded by Chris Armour and Brian Flint respectively. Rosemary Dennis offered to be Treasurer, but owing to transport problems from Sudbury the Committee had to turn down the generous offer. (Mike Weaver has since agreed to take on the job. It is hoped to co-opt another Member to fill his vacated Committee seat.)

Two excellent films were then shown and well-received by a packed first floor audience: Alan Willmott's 'Turn to the Wind' and the Anglia TV film on Woodbridge Tide Mill, kindly obtained by Mike Weaver. Together these lasted for about 50 minutes.

The Meeting ended at 3.45 p.m. and was followed by visits to Buttrum's and Tricker's tower windmills on a very pleasant sunny afternoon. There was also an opportunity to inspect the upper floors of the Tide Mill, and to view the new S.M.G. exhibition stand set up on the ground floor.

Our thanks go to those Members who helped organize the Meeting, especially Mike Weaver, Chris Hullcoop, Mark Barnard and Alan Willmott for coming over from Hemel Hempstead specially to show us his film (and at no charge to us either). Thanks also to those Members who turned up. We think everyone enjoyed it; it was certainly more lively than most A.G.M.'s we've been to!

A final thanks must go to Mark Barnard for taking the minutes during the Meeting, from which this report has been compiled.

M.J.B. / P.C.J.D.

LETTER

The following correspondence has been received from Brian Flint, of 15, St. Mary's Close, Bramford, Ipswich:

I read, with interest, the articles on Tricker's Mill, Woodbridge, in Newsletter No.4. An advertisement in the Ipswich Journal for 3 April 1819 seems to relate to this mill and reads as follows:

"To be sold by auction A very Capital and Substantial erected Brick Tower Wind Mill 23 feet by 23, with stowage for upwards of 1000 coombs of wheat, 5 stories high, 2 pair best French stones, 4 feet 3 inches diameter, a flour dressing machine and boulting mill This Mill has been built within these last 9 months ... fitted with Cubitt's patent sails, working herself to the wind, stands upon an elevated and commanding site, at the West end of WOODBRIDGE and by the side of a turnpike road. Also a convenient Dwelling House ... the whole in the occupation of the proprietor, Mr. Elless Sharman".

An advertisement of sale of mill contents and household furniture "under an assignment for the Benefit of Creditors" follows.

There certainly was a post mill roundhouse in the same yard but references to it are very scanty. Stanley Freese stated that the foundations of the walls and pier bases were visible around 1935 and remarked that they could be photographed but unfortunately seems not to have done so.

BOOK REVIEW

'WINDMILLS IN ESSEX' by B.J. and J.M. Turpin (Windmill Publications, Thaxted, Essex; 1978; price 60p.)

This is an attractive glossy booklet illustrating the present condition of all the windmills which still stand in recognisable form in the county. A brief general historical introduction is also included, together with a glossary of terms and photographs of some of the mills which have disappeared in the relatively recent past such as Little Saling, Moreton and Little Laver. The information presented is very up-to-date (Ramsey is shown clad in white weatherboarding and Thaxted has its new fantail) but as the authors say, things change constantly and one mill shown has already disappeared, namely South Ockendon smock mill. I wonder which will be next to go? The illustrations and text are generally adequate, but, bearing in mind the fine quality of the colour printing achieved on the cover, it would have been nice to see a picture of a properly restored mill and not the pretty but sterile house conversion with ladder sails at Terling. Generally, though, a worthwhile purchase for those who are not familiar with the windmills of the county.

M.J.B.

PAKENHAM'S PROGRESS

Some of you may remember the S.P.A.B. day tour of Suffolk mills back in 1967. The weather was perfect - sunny, with a good wind - and the highlight of the day was the visit to Pakenham. John Bryant had the tower mill running for us and Brian Marriage was working the watermill. It was a unique experience to stand by the watermill hearing the sound of water turning the wheel and to see a few fields away the tower mill at work. It was as if the whole world was full of working wind and water mills again!

We thought that Brian Marriage would always keep working the watermill and rather took them both for granted. However, in 1974 Brian Marriage decided to retire after working the mill for 41 years. He said "I am over 70 now and have decided that I have done enough". By keeping it at work he allowed the mill to survive all those years when people cared little for working mills. They were gutted for the price of the machinery as scrap, even burnt down for films and of course the ubiquitous house converters were ever ready to move in. For a while it looked as if Pakenham would be house converted, and suffer that final indignity, a claim in the press that the mill had been carefully restored. For several years the future of the mill was the subject of meetings, an inquiry, planning applications good and bad. The vital point is that there was much debate and no hasty decisions were made. With so few complete and even

fewer workable mills the loss of Pakenham would have been tragic. Not only is it a late eighteenth / early nineteenth century wheel-driven stone mill, but also has early twentieth century roller milling machinery driven by an oil engine.

In 1974 copies of my comments were sent to the local authorities and all others concerned. Here is an extract:

"One group of buildings which have not fared so well are those whose most interesting features are not the buildings themselves, but the machinery they contain. In East Anglia predominant in this group are corn grinding wind and water mills. The majority stand together with a house reflecting the prosperity of the 18th and 19th century corn millers. Here there is no cause to convert the mill to a house as ample accommodation is provided by suitable modernization of the usually fine house adjoining. In a few cases however, a mill is for sale with a piece of land but no house existing. Often they stand in areas where new buildings (especially houses) are not allowed, but the conversion of an existing building is allowed. Thus where a mill is complete with machinery, the planning laws discourage the correct preservation of the mill (i.e. it's continued use and maintenance in working order), and encourage the destruction of the most important part of the building by house conversion. This inevitably means removal of machinery which should be protected by listing ("It is the history of Engineering and Technology in the solid" - Rex Wailes)".

"Why not a more flexible approach where a new house (which would not normally be allowed) could be built provided it was of appropriate design and materials. This could be allowed on condition the owner maintained the mill and did not remove machinery. In a case where a change of ownership is imminent it encourages the man who is keen to restore and work a mill but must have somewhere to live close by. It discourages those who seek to convert the mill which is really only a 'gimmick', and unknown to the persons concerned is so very destructive to the history of industry.

It is not suggested that councils take on more "mill responsibilities" only that they encourage proper mill preservation by genuinely interested private individuals through flexibility of planning policies".

The main problem was that the Mill House had been sold away from the mill many years before. An application was made to the local planning authority for conversion of the mill to a house, but a decision was deferred several times in the hope that someone would buy the mill as it was and continue to run it. After much debate the application was eventually refused and the whole case went to an inquiry in the autumn of 1975. The Department of the Environment supported the local authority and their decision was upheld.

All this time the Suffolk Preservation Society, led by its Director, John Popham, had been very busy looking into the possibility of buying the mill with grant aid. Their aim was to keep it working by letting it to a miller / custodian and to help finance future maintenance from an admission charge to visitors and through the sale of stone ground flour. John Popham spoke to the press thus: "If you convert the mill into a house no matter how carefully it is done it ceases to be a water mill and becomes a house. We don't want the owner to suffer any financial loss as a result of this and I understand his frustration".

In 1976 the planners agreed to allow a new house of appropriate design and materials to be built on land next to the mill. It was to be built and occupied by a bona fide restorer of the mill. This was a splendid opportunity for a mill enthusiast, but alas the £30,000 or so needed to buy the property and build the new house was a formidable problem. Ipswich architect Mark Bain took up the challenge and submitted plans for a new house. These were described in glowing terms by planning officer David Albon: "This



really is a superb submission. The house although it is modern will complement the mill". However, the proposals proved too expensive, as did an application from S.P.A.B. member Bob Sier who wanted to establish a museum at the mill.

While all this was going on S.P.S. were working slowly but surely towards raising sufficient funds to purchase the mill. An anonymous donation enabled them to make a firm offer to Brian Marriage and contracts have recently been exchanged. The mill was officially handed over a few weeks ago. On 'Look East' we saw a smiling Brian Marriage presenting the mill key to S.P.S. Chairman Hugh Paget.

The freehold of the mill will rest with the Suffolk Building Preservation Trust which has charitable status and a management committee is being formed. The purchase and restoration will cost about £50,000 of which S.P.S. have raised £40,000, a great achievement.

Work has started on repairs and this will take about 12 months. It is then hoped to let the mill to a suitable tenant who will run it and open it for people at weekends and holidays. The stone milling machinery is in fair working order and it is hoped to maintain and improve it over the years. The only way to do this may be by the skills and energy of volunteers, including local schools. S.P.S. have asked if S.M.G. can help and in a few weeks time we hope to meet John Popham of S.P.S., a craft master from a local school and local oil engine experts at the mill. We would like S.M.G. to be involved, but this depends entirely on support of Members. If anyone would like to help please write either to me or to Peter Dolman and we will let you know the time and date of this meeting at the mill.

There are two great advantages for anyone working at Pakenham. Firstly, the mill has good trust ownership in perpetuity. This gives security not only to the money invested in grants and donations but also the time, energy and skill of volunteers. Private ownership can be very good but what happens if the good private owner steps under the proverbial bus? The mill is sold and the new owner is quite within his rights to place a 'Private' notice and keep everyone away. Secondly, the overall aim of the trust to keep the mill at work is admirable. The way it is hoped to achieve this, by a combination of local and government grants, volunteer help, a miller / custodian, etc., is realistic and far-sighted. We must congratulate S.P.S. and John Popham: they have given Pakenham Mill a bright future.

Chris Hullcoop

MILLNEWS

DALHAM MILL

After a long wait (7 years!) things are at last moving at Lower Mill, Dalham. May 15th. saw millwrights Gormley and Goodman (who were with Derek Ogden before he emigrated) take possession of the site to begin the 18 month restoration programme. The money is being found by the D.o.E., Suffolk County Council, Forest Heath District Council and the owner, Mr. Frank Farrow. There are five phases of restoration, namely Tower, Cap, Fantail, Machinery and Sails. So far, only the first two are definitely going ahead at a cost of some £22,000, although it is almost certain that the whole £33,000 amount will be found to enable the sails to turn again. The first job is to get the ground floor repaired so that it can be used as a working space, then the roof, wind-shaft, cap and curb will be lifted off by crane to enable the cap and curb to be rebuilt. An almost total rebuild is called for, with new corner posts and curb.

I would recommend anyone interested in millwrighting to keep an eye on progress, for work almost unheard of these days will be carried out, such as the building of a new brakewheel and curb, each with inset wooden cogs.

Let us hope for good progress on this worthwhile project and hope too that the millwrights don't let us down like the previous team did.

P.C.J.D.

KERSEY MILL

Following the initiative of Babergh District Council in trying to save this fine watermill (see last Newsletter), it has now been reported that the owner, Mr. Robert Partridge, is to carry out first aid repairs to the fabric. Hopefully this should ensure the mill at least stands long enough for some definite decision to be made on its long-term future. Babergh are 'monitoring' the situation and the District Planning Officer will report back to Committee in January 1979.

BAYLHAM MILL REPAIRS

We are pleased to hear that Mr. E.N. Onians is carrying out repairs to the weatherboarding on his picturesque watermill at Baylham and is going to repaint it. Since ceasing work in the early 1960's it has not been used much, only doing the odd bit of farm grinding. We hope to organize a S.M.G. visit to the mill eventually.

WOODBIDGE TIDE MILL

S.M.G. Members will be sorry to hear of the death of Peter Wyllie, Hon. Secretary of the Friends of Woodbridge Tide Mill. Mr. Wyllie had been involved in the rescue effort of the Tide Mill from its start in 1971. His work included fund-raising, publicity of the mill and organisation of group visits. In the last 18 months he worked to organise the construction of a new mill pool (see below). In recognition of the effort he had expended on the restoration of the mill, Woodbridge Town Council awarded him the town's 'Fellowship Cup' for the year 1978. This is an annual award for service to the town.

Planning permission for the new mill pool was obtained from Suffolk Coastal D.C. on May 2nd., subject to details of the lock gates, materials and landscaping. Work must start by July 24th. in order to qualify for a D.o.E. grant of £5,000. The pool will be about 1 acre in extent, enabling the mill to run for about half an hour with each tide. The Friends have amassed £5,000 towards the pool.

REPAIRS TO SAXTEAD MILL

The well known Saxtead windmill is at present undergoing a refit. A new laminated stock is being fitted together with a new ladder. The old ladder is still in fair condition and is probably 100 years old or more, having been previously fitted to High Mill, Sweffling (demolished about 1912). The whole mill and roundhouse are being repainted, and the work will take most of the summer to complete. It is being carried out by the D.o.E. direct labour workforce from Framlingham and Bury St. Edmunds. The mill is open to the public during the repairs although the buck has been closed off for a while.

MILLSTONES UNEARTHED IN IPSWICH

During excavation work for a new Council office block in Rope Walk, Ipswich, a pair of millstones were dug up from a depth of some 5 feet. Closer investigation revealed that they were of German lava ('Cullen' stones), of 3 ft. diameter. They had worn extremely thin and were then bolted together, probably for use as a base for an upright post. There is pronounced dressing on the stones but its design will not be revealed until the bolts have been removed allowing the stones to be parted. They will probably be cleaned up and put on display in the new offices.

Exactly where the stones were used is uncertain; they are probably at least 300 years old. The nearest mill stood on what is now Alexandra Park, about 300 yards away, in the 17th. and early 18th. centuries; a watermill is known to have stood for a while in St. Helens parish nearby, but the site of this mill is not known. Several years ago three granite edge stones were uncovered nearby; these are now displayed at the Suffolk College in Rope Walk and came from a brickworks where they were used for crushing clay.

TRAINEE MILLWRIGHT WANTED

Essex County Council are seeking a school leaver to train as a millwright under Vincent Pargeter, who is employed full time by the County Council to maintain their mills at Mountnessing, Finchingfield, Thorrington, Stock and Aythorpe Roding. Vincent is rebuilding this latter mill almost single handed to an exceptional standard.

Applicants for the job should ideally have an 'O' level or CSE in woodwork, and although the pay won't make him (or her!) rich, the trainee should enjoy the work. Applications should be in by mid June, and so far 50 have been received.

EVENTS

S.P.A.B. TOUR OF LEICESTERSHIRE - SATURDAY 10th. JUNE

The Wind and Watermill Section of S.P.A.B. have organised a day trip visiting mills in Leicestershire. The following mills will be seen: Kibworth Harcourt post mill, Wymondham tower mill, watermills at Tickencote, West Deeping, Duddington and Maxey (the latter working) and, unfortunately, the horrible house conversion at Barrowden (better known as Morcott windmill).

The train leaves St. Pancras at 9.06, arriving at Market Harborough at 10.36, when coaches take over. The train returns from Market Harborough at 19.47, arriving back in London at 21.28.

The costs are as follows:

Train from London; Coach; Lunch and tea	£10.75
Coach; Lunch and tea (own transport to M.H.)	£7.25
Train; Coach; own food	£7.55
Lunch and tea (own transport round mills)	£5.20
Own transport round mills & own food	£2.00

Applications to join the party should be made to Mrs. M. Dance, S.P.A.B., 55, Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JA. (S.P.A.B. Members in S.M.G. will probably have received details of this tour by the time this Newsletter arrives.)

VISIT TO R.H.M. ROLLER MILLS, FELIXSTOWE DOCK - MONDAY 19 JUNE 7 pm

S.M.G. has arranged a most interesting visit to the Rank Hovis MacDougall (ex Marriages) flour mill, located beside the Dock Basin at Felixstowe.

Originally built in 1904, the plant has always been in the forefront of technical innovations. The building was the first to be constructed on vertically cast and driven concrete piles, and the milling plant was one of the first in the country to be converted from mechanical to pneumatic elevation. More recently, the plant has been remodelled to increase capacity and to incorporate additional machinery and improved bulk and bag handling facilities. (Information from the Felixstowe Port Yearbook; 1977)

We particularly hope this visit will be well supported.

Mr J.Dixon the mill manager has kindly agreed to our visit and we will meet beside the mill at 7.00 pm. Enter the dock via No 2 gate (If challenged say you are going to the mill), there is parking space beside the mill. Do please be on time as Mr Dixon or one of his staff will be there especially for us. You cant miss it, a great port roller mill standing next to the original Felixstowe dock. Different from wind and water mill sites, but very attractive with ships moored alongside to unload their wheat directly into the mill. Lets hope for a fine warm June evening with a gentle sea breeze.

VISIT TO FRISTON AND THORPENESS POST MILLS - SUNDAY JULY 16th. Meet 2.30 p.m. at Friston Mill.

The last two years have seen over £20,000 worth of restoration work on these two fine mills. The future of Friston mill in particular was uncertain until purchased by Piers Hartley in 1972, and he is to be congratulated for initiating a long-term restoration programme on this very large post mill, the first phase of which (involving the rebuilding of the buck and a new roundhouse roof) was successfully completed in 1976.

After inspecting Friston mill we will move on to Thorpeness (see elsewhere in this Newsletter).

WAVENEY JAUNT

Fancy a day's mill hunting on the River Waveney? Peter Dolman proposes to hire a Broads cruiser for a day, investigating windpump sites upstream of Somerleyton. These sites are difficult to reach by land and a boat trip is more relaxing than driving or walking along dirt tracks! Anyone interested in joining this expedition should contact Peter fairly soon, as it is hoped to run it one weekend in June or July.

WORKING PARTY AT BUTTRUM'S MILL, WOODBRIDGE

The work needing to be carried out here is to fit a brake lever post and to set up the brake, to do minor repairs to the stone furniture and chutes and to arrange neat labels for the mechanism. If S.M.G. is to undertake this work, someone is needed to organise the party and to recruit volunteers to help. No arduous work is involved, and a few weekend's work during the summer could see the job through. So how about it, you keen mill enthusiasts out there? This is the last complete 'Whitmore' mill in the country, so its a most worthwhile task. Please contact the Secretary if interested.

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

Friends of Norfolk Windmills Details of the first of the Summer 1978 working parties are now available:

Billingsford Mill: Saturday 3rd. June

Work to the interior, including maintenance of the machinery, painting, cleaning, etc., preparing the mill for opening to the public at Bank Holidays.

Paston Mill: Saturday and Sunday 17-18th. June

Fibreglass coating of the cap, painting the cap and cap frame; also some interior work.

St. Olaves Mill

Efforts are being made to complete the restoration of this mill. Further details from the Secretary (Chris Seago, 33, Acacia Road, Thorpe St. Andrew, Norwich).

Cambridgeshire Wind and Watermill Society The A.G.M. of the Society will be held at Wicken Fen on Saturday 5th. August.

NEW MEMBERS 1.3.78 to 27.5.78

HARDWICK, J.N. (F)

45, Pightle Close, Elmswell, Suffolk

Tel.: Elmswell 40613 (home); Ipswich 55801 Ext. 383 (work)

MUMMERY, Miss Rachel-Clare (F)

219, Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich

Tel.: Ipswich 76911 (work)

(General interest in mills)

NICHOLAS, Nick (P)

1, Bamborough Gardens, Shepherds Bush, London W12 8QN

PATERSON, Donald S. (P)

365, Brentwood Road, Romford, Essex RM2 5TM

Tel.: Hornchurch 53578 (home); 01-589-3444 Ext. 266 (work)

(History & technology of mills, especially Lancashire and Yorkshire windmills)

STOP PRESS!

Cap lifted off Dalham mill 30 May 1978.