

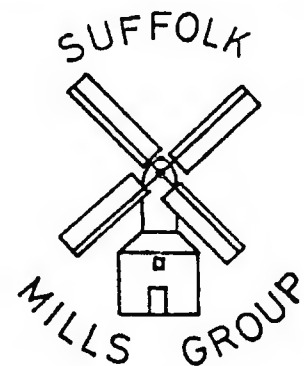
SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter Number 9

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During the winter S.M.G. held a very successful public meeting in Ipswich, when about one hundred and fifty people came to hear Rex Wailes and Hallam Ashley speak. The Group has also now published Peter Dolman's book 'Windmills in Suffolk' (reviewed inside), while membership has continued to grow, so we can look back on the last few, cold months with considerable pleasure. Now, with the warmer weather in store, we can look forward to a full season of outdoor events once again. Please note in particular the Annual General Meeting, which this year is being held at Pakenham windmill on Sunday May 20th.. As far as practical work is concerned, this is still in the melting pot, but I can assure you this is not through any lack of opportunities! More details on this in the next Newsletter (May).

May I sincerely thank those Members who conveyed to me, directly or via the Secretary, their appreciation of December's Newsletter.

Mark Barnard

WINDMILLS IN THE BOROUGH OF IPSWICH (1)

PETER DOLMAN

Introduction

When asked to write this article by the Editor I thought it would be a fairly straightforward task. From previous attempts to unravel the mills however, particularly those on the Woodbridge Road. I knew I was in for a few problems. I soon found I had far too much material for an article so I have decided to précis my notes for brevity's sake. I am continuing the research meanwhile and hope eventually to write up the mills in the detail they deserve.

Sources of Information

The best sources are the various maps produced in the nineteenth century and the local newspapers, together with Tithe maps, trades directories and Census returns. The newspapers are best, containing sale adverts. which usually give an inventory of the mill and its owner or occupier, and sometimes items of news such as fires or gale damage. Going through one hundred years worth of papers (and three or four different ones) is going to take me several years (unless I get some help - any offers?) so I'm afraid much useful information won't have come to light yet. I have been given some references by Brian Flint and Bob Malster and will be able to make use of these where possible.

Generally

Early references to Ipswich windmills are scarce, and there do not seem to have been very many windmills in the town until the late eighteenth century. Probably the two Corporation owned watermills at Handford Road and Stoke Bridge (the Tide Mill) were able to keep the town supplied with flour.

The windmills had their heyday between about 1800 and 1860, when large amounts of flour were sent to London from the town, and this brief period came to a close when steam mills started appearing about this date in the town. Five windmills are shown in 1783 on Hodskinson's map; by 1812 this had increased to twelve. Greenwood and Bryant between them (1823-5) show seventeen mills and William Cobbett, in his famous quote from 'Rural Rides', saw seventeen from one place near the town in 1830. The Ordnance Survey map of 1837 also shows seventeen, although it doesn't show Westerfield mill, which was there at that date. The detailed town maps of the 1840's show the most mills at 21.

By the O.S. maps of 1881-4 the number had been slashed to seven, and in 1902 just two remained, only one of which was at work. This was the tall smock mill on the Woodbridge Road, near the 'Lattice Barn' public house, which was finally demolished about 1930. The last mill to stand in the town was Bramford Road tower mill, the tower of which was pulled down about 1953.

THE MILLS

These are listed by the parishes within the Borough. The number before each mill refers to the map on page 5. The O.S. Grid Reference (to eight figures where known) follows after the name of the mill.

ST. MATTHEWS, IPSWICH

1. St. Matthews Mill (1566,4521)

This post mill was apparently built on an open trestle in 1795, and had its roundhouse erected in 1804. In 1807 it was 'newly erected' and had a floor area of 18ft. by 11ft., with five floors (i.e. a two-storey roundhouse). It drove one pair of 4ft. 10ins. French stones and a bolter and had common sails with 11 yards of cloth, i.e. a span of over 70 feet, which must have been a handful in a gale!

It lost a sail in 1808 in a gale and by 1823 had a second pair of stones fitted. The mill was advertised to be let several times in the early 1840's after a refit by Samuel Wright, the local millwright. It now had patent sails and three pairs of French stones and cast iron machinery, including the brake wheel.

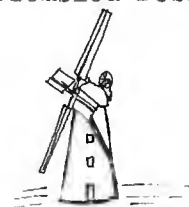
The end came on Friday 28th. January 1859, when a fire was discovered in the buck. Despite the efforts of several fire pumps it was completely destroyed within three hours. Shortly afterwards the machinery was auctioned off, together with the post and a few other large timbers which had escaped the fire.

John Nunn was the last miller and after the fire he went to the new steam mill nearby in Benezet Street.

2. Bramford Road Tower Mill (1489,4520)

This tower mill was evidently built between 1841 and 1844 for Robert Sallows, possibly by Whitmore of Wickham Market, as it was reputed to have resembled Debenham mill, built by Whitmore in 1839.

A number of millers ran it, finishing with Horace Cattermole who seems to have ceased using it c.1896-8. It was subsequently dismantled and the premises used as a laundry. The tower was finally pulled down c.1953 and nothing remains at the site.



Bramford Road Mill
c. 1880

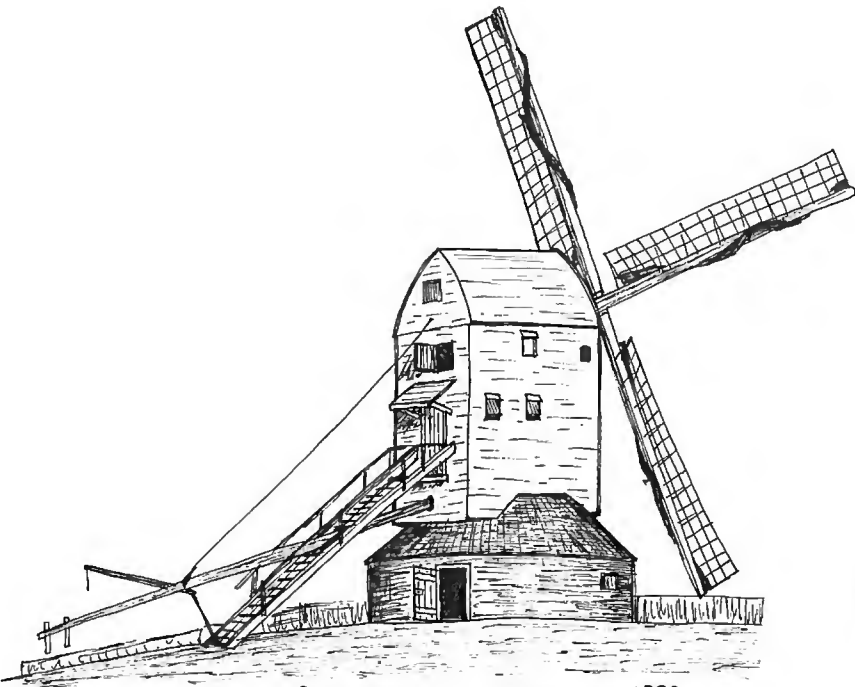
The mill had four floors, with underdriven stones on the second floor. There were four double shuttered patent sails, an ogee or domed cap and a fantail.

ST. CLEMENTS, IPSWICH

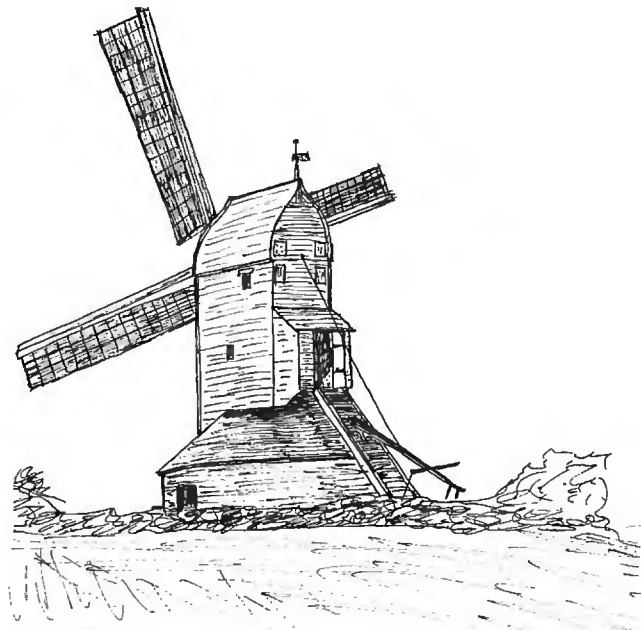
3. & 4. Bishop's Hill (1755,4383)

A map of 1736 shows a mill near this site, at approx. 178,437. This mill was blown down on November 6th. 1795 and a new mill was built nearby for Mr. Dowsing, who had occupied the earlier mill.

It was a large post mill with a single storey roundhouse, four common sails and a tailpole. A fine watercolour of it can be seen in the Christchurch Mansion museum, Ipswich. The last miller was John Leach, and the mill is last shown on a map of 1855. It was apparently sold to a Mr. Biddle who moved it to Willisham, probably to replace another post mill moved there from Elmsett earlier. It worked until about 1905, shortly after which it was pulled down. Nothing remains at either of the sites, a house occupying the Ipswich site.



BISHOPS HILL MILL c. 1830



STOKE HILL MILL (NORTH) c. 1810

ST. MARY, STOKE

5. Belstead Road (approx. 156,433)

This mill appears on a map of 1812 and is depicted as a distant post mill on an engraving of 1819. It had gone by 1823 and nothing more is known of it.

Monson's map of 1848 and White's map of 1867 both show a circular building near the 1812 site at Grid Reference 1530, 4307, and this could possibly be a roundhouse remaining from the mill. We will probably never know.

6. & 7. Stoke Hill Mills (North Mill 1595,4370; South Mill 1599,4364)

There were two post mills here, the North Mill being the older of the pair. It was standing in 1736 and worked until 1849, when it was moved to Earl Soham (246,644) where it stood until about 1903. It is well illustrated, being situated on the brow of Stoke Hill, overlooking the town. The best picture is the one by Constable; this depicts it



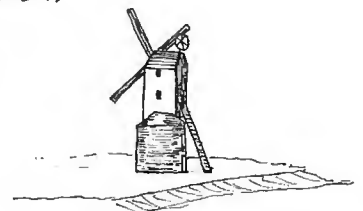
STOKE HILL (SOUTH MILL) c. 1880

extended at the tail as depicted in the famous photograph by Vick, taken c.1880. This shows it to have had a single storey roundhouse, with two spring sails and two common sails; it was winded by a tailpole. The stocks were carried in a wooden poll-end.

The mills were in separate occupation originally, then around 1790-1830 they were in joint ownership, after which they split up again. The North Mill was probably last used by Robert Andrews, listed in 1846, and who subsequently went to the mill south of the Albion Mills. The South Mill was last worked by William Goodchild, whose father John was there in the 1830's.

8. & 9. Halifax Mills (North Mill 1628,4261; South Mill 1627,4254)

The South Mill, known as 'Halifax Mill', was the older, being first shown in 1812. It was advertised for sale in 1841 as a 'Capital Windmill' with a 'double roundhouse' - there were three pairs of stones and a flour machine, patent sails and, most interestingly, a rooftop fantail. In fact, it seems to have been very much like Ramsey mill. It is apparently shown in an engraving of 1843 but went about this time, being replaced by a steam mill, the building of which remains in use as light industrial premises. The windmill was last used by William Buttrum.

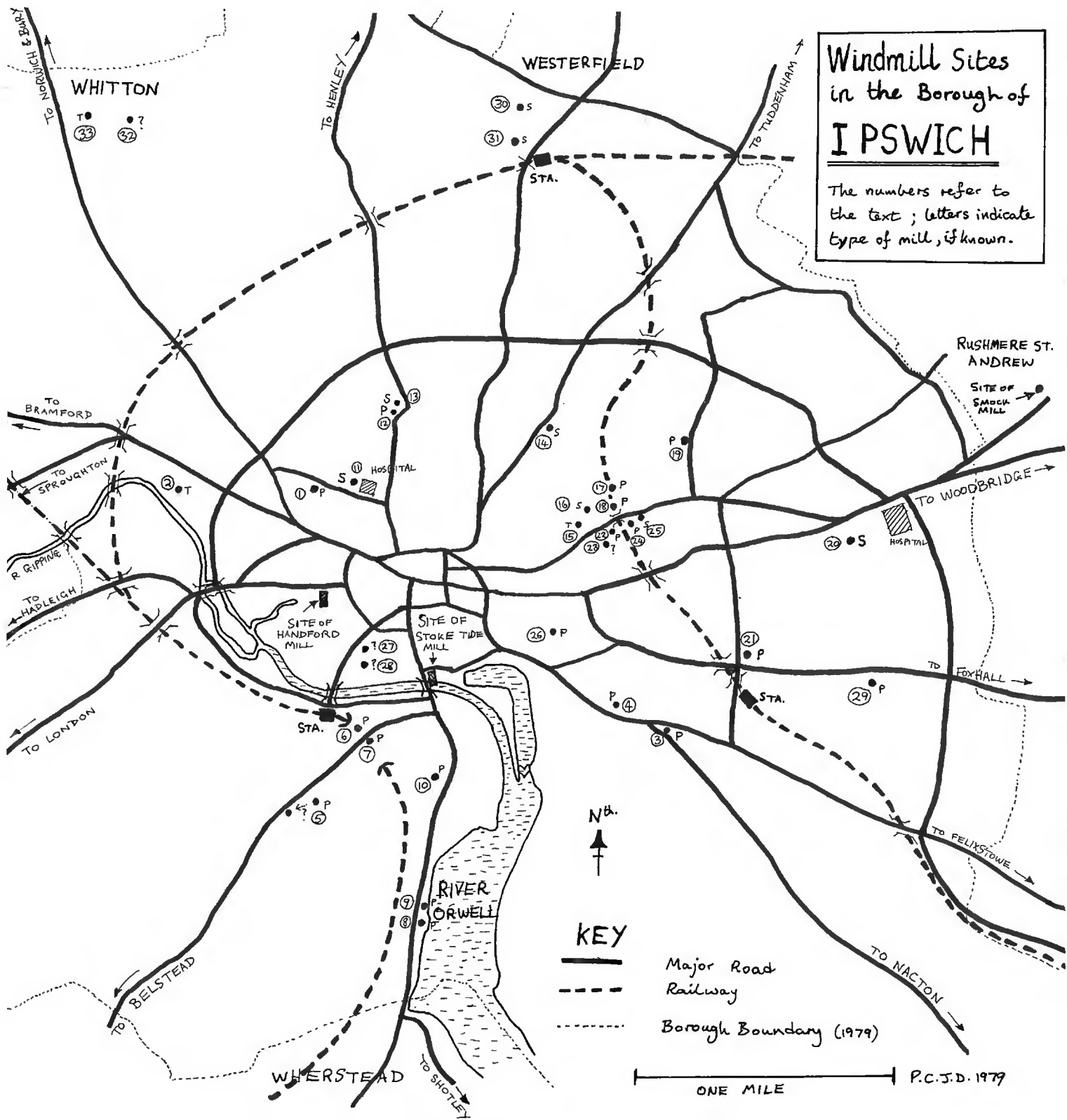


Halifax Mill. 1819.

The North Mill was first shown on the O.S. map of 1836-7 and was probably built speculatively in the 1830's. It was advertised in 1841 as a 'Capital nearly new windmill' and had a two storey roundhouse and two pairs of stones. It was to be pulled down a month after the sale, which in fact appears to have happened. The last occupant was Thomas Lucock, who ran both mills up to 1841. The North Mill was slightly taller than the South Mill, both being shown in an engraving of 1839.

10. Providence Mill, Stoke Green (1641,4341)

This post mill was newly built in 1812 when it was auctioned because of its owner's



**Windmill Sites
in the Borough of
IPSWICH**

The numbers refer to
the text ; letters indicate
type of mill, if known.

bankruptcy. It was a large mill, being 18ft. by 10ft., with a 21ft. roundhouse, a 6ft. flourmill, 9ft. brake wheel, a pair of 5ft. and a pair of 4ft. French stones in the head and tail, and a wooden windshaft with cast iron neck. Two engravings of 1819 depict the mill but not in any detail.

It worked until the late 1840's, the last miller being William Bruce. Nothing remains on the site, now part of Croft Street.

ST. MARGARETS, IPSWICH

11. Peddars Lane (now Anglesea Road) (1585,4529)

This mill stood near St. Matthews Mill, to the north of Peddars Lane next to the

hospital. It is first shown on a map of 1825 and disappeared in 1849. It was a smock mill, being described as a 'wooden tower mill' with two pairs of stones, a flour mill and jumper. It was 'lately occupied by Mr. Kealy' in 1837. Samuel Symonds occupied it at the end of its short life and little more is known about it.

12. & 13. Bolton Mill, Henley Road (1621,4573)

The first mill here is depicted as a post mill on Bransby's map of 1812, and stood a little west of its later site. It is shown at this latter site on the 1836 O.S. map and was advertised in 1840 as 'lately erected'. It was a smock mill on a brick base, with patent sails, fantail, two pairs of 4ft. French stones and a flour mill with jumper. It seems to have been built c.1835, from the amount of lease expired by the date of auction.

Unfortunately the mill was struck by lightning on 17th. July 1851, as the 'Ipswich Journal' recounts at great length. Great damage was done, including a shattered sail and the almost inevitable (in such cases) splitting of the striking chain! The owner, Charles Fonnereau (of Christchurch Mansion) apparently wrote the mill off as it was sold for demolition in December 1851. The last miller was William Howell, who subsequently ran the Albion Mills on Woodbridge Road.

The site is now built over, situated as it is in the suburban area of north Ipswich.

14. Folly Mill, Tuddenham Road (1708,4552)

This smock mill is first depicted on the 1812 map and in 1819 was advertised as a 'Newly erected substantial Tower Wind-mill' with two pairs of French stones. It was advertised to be let in 1841 and again in 1842, when it was also offered for sale. It is described as having four floors, with three pairs of stones, and was occupied by William Pollard. William Bird was miller in 1861 though the mill must have gone about this time. It was moved to a site near Mr. Cullum's watermill at Kettleburgh, where it only had a single pair of stones. It was disused by 1882 and went soon after. Nothing remains at either site.

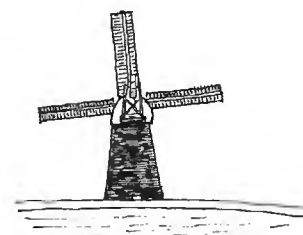
15. 'Tower Mill', Albion Hill (now North Hill Road) (1731,4496)

This mill is possibly the best documented and one of the oldest mills in Ipswich; it passed through many peoples' hands during its life of over 100 years.

It is first depicted on Hodskinson's 1783 map, and was advertised in the mid 1790's as a 'good brick tower mill, with 2 pair of French stones, a flour mill and machine'.

In 1808 we read that it 'has had its walls raised 12 feet, a new cap and turning tackle, new inside with 3 pairs of French stones'. It must have been a very 'dumpy' mill before its raising as it was not particularly tall in its later life.

In 1836 it had 'spring sails' and 'cast-iron shafts', with two pairs of French stones 'and one pair small ditto'. In 1837 'patent sails' are mentioned and in this form it remained until its demise. In later years a pair of composition stones were used, as I discovered a piece of one while rummaging about the site in 1975.



North Hill Road Mill
c. 1880

The various millers and owners get very complicated in the nineteenth century so I will not go into detail. The last miller was Abram Southgate, later at the water-mill at Combs Ford, Stowmarket. The tower mill, which was tarred, with a large domed or ogee cap and ten bay patent sails, was pulled down in the early or mid 1890's. The site is now disused, with the odd derelict shed remaining. Nothing remains of the mill, although a little digging might reveal some foundations. The piece of millstone now resides in my back garden!

16. Bank Road, Albion Hill (1736,4508)

Very little is known about this mill, which only appears on maps of 1848 and 1849, and also on an O.S. map revision of unknown date (I haven't seen the original). An advert. of 1841 refers to the mill: 'To let - Smock Windmill, with 3 pair of stones, patent sails, winds herself, on Woodbridge Road, Ipswich'. The last miller was probably Charles Seagrave and the mill seems to have gone in the 1850's. It is possible that it could have been moved, perhaps to the site further along Woodbridge Road, where a smock mill fitting the description appeared about this time. Further research may determine whether this is true.

17. & 18. Albion Mills (North Mill 1754,4525; South Mill 1754,4518)

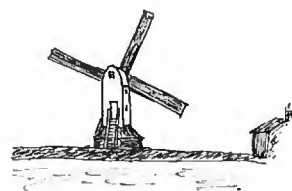
These two post mills first appear on maps of 1823-5. They were under the same ownership in the 1840's, but appear to have been leased separately, despite their proximity to one another. In 1842 'an excellent Post Wind-mill driving 2 pair of French stones abreast' was to be let, the proprietor being John Bedwell. Later that year 'A New Post Wind-mill' with two pairs of stones, patent sails and a fantail and a two storey roundhouse was offered to be let - 'apply to Mr. William Archer, on the premises'. These items refer to the North and South mills respectively. If the South Mill was in fact 'New' in 1842, it must have been rebuilt, as a mill was on the site some eighteen years before. It actually had two patent and two common sails, although the advert. kept quiet about this!

The following year the mills were again offered; the North Mill to be sold by auction, occupied by Charles Bedwell, and the South Mill to be let - 'apply to Mr. John Collins, millwright, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich'. (His premises were at the lower end of Woodbridge Road, in the town.)

The mills passed through various hands, being last shown together on White's 1867 map. The South Mill had gone by 1877, when the Felixstowe branch railway cut through its site. The North Mill, which was the older mill, had two common sails, two spring sails and a fairly low roundhouse and no fantail. It was working until the mid 1880's, when Arthur Cox was miller. It was demolished about this time and nothing remains at the site. The name is perpetuated in a public house called 'The Albion Mills' nearby.

19. Sidegate Lane (1797,4549)

This post mill first appears on the O.S. map of 1836-7 and probably dates from the 1820's. The only description of it found so far is in a sale advert. of 1859, brought

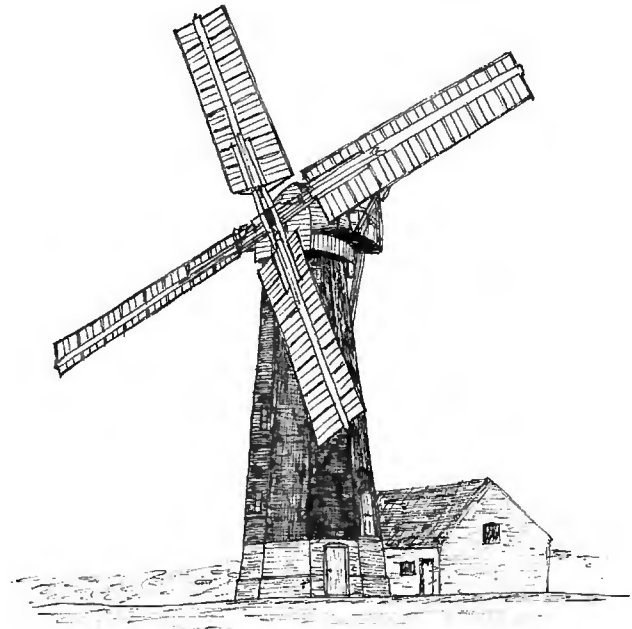


ALBION MILL (NORTH)
c. 1870

about by the death of William Cuthbert, one of its millers. It had spring sails and a fantail, with two pairs of French stones, a flour machine with jumper and a brick roundhouse. The last miller would seem to be James O. Rivers, who is listed in 1868; it had gone by the 1871 Census and nothing remains at the site.

20. 'Lattice Barn', Woodbridge Road (1899,4483)

This tall smock mill appeared in the 1850's, possibly as a result of a move, as suggested earlier. The miller in 1858 was T. Elvin; it soon passed to Charles Smith, whose family continued to use it until it ceased work in 1922. The shutters were then taken out and the cap and sails removed in 1925. It succumbed to Amos Clarke's axe c.1930, after which the site was built over. Smith's also ran a steam mill on the Woodbridge Road, which had its stones replaced by a 'Tattersall' roller mill in 1898. The mill building still stands, now occupied by Messrs. Barnards, who sell flour and meal from the premises (though it is milled elsewhere).



LATTICE BARN MILL c.1900

The windmill was photographed in 1924 by A. Woolford of Ipswich, and although not of very good quality, the pictures do allow us to get a clear view of the mill's exterior. It was tall, thin and not very attractively proportioned. The wooden tower was covered with tarred felt and the base was untarred. There were five floors, with a single storey brick base. The three pairs of stones were on the second floor. The cap was boat shaped, with a gallery and six-bladed fantail, and was turned by a worm against the outer curb face. There were four double shuttered eight bay patent sails, the striking chain of which was assisted to the ground by a 'tailpole'.

The style of the cap and sails suggest that it was a 'Collins' mill, though whether this was the 'Ipswich' Collins or the 'Melton' Collins I cannot say.

21. 'Mill Field', Foxhall Road (approx. 184,442)

The Tithe map of 1849 shows 'mill field' at this site, to the north of the Foxhall Road, and the 1805 O.S. map, although inaccurate, confirms a mill near this site.

A newspaper reference of 1805 mentions the 'windmills' in the Foxhall Road, the other one being that in Rushmere parish; sale adverts. of 1808 and 1812 mention a substantial post mill with roundhouse, called 'Brightwell Mill'. It is almost certain that this mill is the one referred to, as the mills at Bishop's Hill and further along Foxhall Road were in St. Clements and Rushmere parishes respectively, St. Margarets parish being specifically referred to in the 1812 advert..

Bransby's map of 1812 omits the mill but this is probably an oversight. It had gone by 1823.

(The second half of this article will appear in the next Newsletter)

IPSWICH MEETING MARK BARNARD

Detecting considerable interest in 'An Evening of Windmills and Watermills', S.M.G. Secretary Peter Dolman took a gamble and decided to change the venue of the meeting from the Town Hall (where the room booked would only hold sixty people, and there was the daunting prospect of a disco above) to a larger hall at the Ipswich Guides H.Q. very close by. How right he proved to be - one hundred and fifty people packed the hall for the meeting!

S.M.G. Chairman Chris Hullcoop opened by briefly describing the activities of the Group, and went on to show pictures of the repairs to Ramsey mill. He then introduced Rex Wailes, who entertained us for nearly an hour with his memories of Suffolk wind and watermills in the 1920's and 1930's. Of particular interest were his pre-war colour transparencies of mills such as Parham, Woolpit, Wetheringsett and Gedgrave (all now gone), and old millers such as Caleb and Bob Wright at Friston, Ernie Self at Parham, Eddie and Bob Rackham at Wickham Market watermill and Wilfred and Daniel Clover at Drinkstone. It is difficult for the younger generation of mill enthusiasts to appreciate what it must be like to see the mills which remain today, and at the same time be able to remember back to the 1930's, when so many more were standing and working.

After a break of half an hour for refreshments, I gave a brief account of the work on East Bridge and Drinkstone smock mills, and also mentioned some of the visits the Group has organised. Our second principal speaker, Hallam Ashley, then proceeded to show a selection of his superb slides of East Anglian wind and watermills, together with many interesting anecdotes, like when he was locked in the wheelhouse of Elsing watermill in Norfolk and had to wait over an hour to be let out! The clarity of Mr. Ashley's interior photographs never fails to amaze me - every detail is in focus and the whole picture is invariably evenly illuminated.

Chris Hullcoop drew the meeting to a close at 10.40 p.m. (half an hour later than planned) by extending the Group's thanks to all who had made the meeting such a great success. I would like to repeat his special thanks here to Rex Wailes and Hallam Ashley for undertaking considerable mid-winter journeys to entertain and enlighten us. Also to John Osborne for obtaining the public address system which proved very useful with such a large audience; Peter Dolman, Mike Weaver and John Snowdon for arranging posters, printing, screen, lectern, projector and so on. A final 'thanks' must go to Mrs. Dolman, Mrs. Barnard and Rachel Mummery for kindly providing the refreshments at the interval.

This was the first public meeting we had organised, and of course it didn't pass off perfectly; we especially apologise to those people sitting right at the back of the hall who had difficulty hearing and perhaps also seeing the slides. Given the very encouraging turn-out we will no doubt be organising a similar event next winter (or perhaps sooner?) and hopefully the experience gained this time round will help make the next meeting an even bigger success!

On the following day we laid on a 'mini tour' for Rex Wailes, visiting Buttrum's Mill, Woodbridge, Jameson Marshall's works at Wickham Market (to see East Bridge mill parts), Friston and Thorpeness mills. Our thanks to David Nicholls for the transport.

BOOK REVIEW BRIAN FLINT

'WINDMILLS IN SUFFOLK - A Contemporary Survey' by Peter C.J. Dolman. Published by Suffolk Mills Group; 1979. Price: £1.95. (Obtainable from the author - address on p.1 - please include an additional 25p. for postage, etc..)

In the same series as the contemporary county studies, mostly published by Stevenage Museum, we now have this useful volume with cover graced by an excellent drawing of Drinkstone post mill by Arthur Smith.

The format differs slightly from its companions so that more details of each of the 126 corn mills and 19 pumping mills, of which anything remains, can be included. In addition there is a concise historical and technical survey, a list of mills demolished since 1920, two sectional drawings and a distribution map as well as no fewer than 156 photographs.

Apart from some uncertainty whether Rattlesden smock mill had six pairs of stones or that Swilland post mill ever had four, the text is reliable and informative and the book is to be recommended wholeheartedly to the avid searcher of windmills and windmill remains.

FOUND - A MISSING WINDMILL PETER JENNINGS

Following my request (in Newsletter 6) for confirmation of the existence of some of Hampshire's more elusive windmill remains, I have received some information from Tony Austin of the East Kent Mills Group. He writes:

"I have found one tower mill at Portchester at reference 619044. It is only a stone base and stands close to the sea-shore. It is best approached through a housing estate slightly to the NW and then walk over open land. If you come across a second tower mill in Portchester I should be very pleased to hear".

Despite a search and several local inquiries, Mr. Austin was unable to find any trace of Grateley tower mill at or near the map reference he has: 262414. Peter Dolman has recorded a stump at 264413. Can anyone help with any information about this or the second mill at Portchester?

Editor's Note A survey of the windmill remains of Hampshire has recently been undertaken and will shortly be summarised in a revised edition of 'A Gazetteer of the Water, Wind and Tide Mills of Hampshire' (by C.M. Ellis; Proc. of Hants. Field Club; Vol. 15 (1968)). I will endeavour to list the mill remains in this Newsletter when I receive details. Incidentally, Chalton mill is at present being house-converted.

KERSEY AND LAYHAM : TWO MILLS ON THE BRETT

The official notice of the application to partially convert Layham mill to a house was published in the local paper just after Christmas and came as quite a shock to us. It is the only watermill working in East Anglia let alone Suffolk. Our Committee spent many hours discussing the proposals in the light of our experience of what has happened to Britain's watermills in recent years. Most have been house converted, a very lucrative business, the worst part being that this has been done in the name of restoration / preservation / conservation, backed by the authorities, given grants and when finished acclaimed in the Press and trendy magazines. Although the

proposals for Layham did not interfere with the machinery in the first stages, experience has shown that it inevitably would have done. With the proposed new house extending around the mill and into most of the stone floor there would be a conflict of interest between house and mill. Now the needs of the mill predominate because it is a mill, but had it become a house then house requirements would have come first. It would start a process impossible to stop, especially if the mill changed hands. A 'converted mill' is every Estate Agent's dream, but with house windows on all elevations it is a threat to privacy - something which can be avoided by a traditional mill / mill house relationship, where the house and mill are adjoining. There is no shortage of space or accommodation at Layham. If another house is required there is plenty of room alongside the mill. Our notes to Babergh District Council gave constructive criticism centered on the traditional mill / mill house relationship and the dangers of changing it. Our views were similar to those of the Suffolk Preservation Society, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Parish Council.

We had been delighted to hear of the proposed establishment of an electronics business at Kersey mill. New ownership gave hope after the long years of neglect by Mr. Partridge had nearly demolished the mill. The large complex of buildings includes the watermill (itself two mills in one), the fine mill house, maltings, a kiln, barn and stables. The use of the very large two storey malting for the main workshop; the conversion of stables and farm buildings to offices and accommodation; restoration and occupation of the mill house by Geoff and Christina Mellor (the proprietors) and the use of some space in the watermill for exhibition of products all seemed splendid. Again the little official notice in the paper that planning permission was being sought to use the wheel-house and top floor of the mill for two self-contained flats came as a shock. We had hoped that some of the finance generated by a modern industry could restore the mill, albeit over many years. It seemed as if late nineteenth century and late twentieth century technologies would become complementary and a new economic context found for the whole group. With all the buildings and space available at Kersey we wondered why the mill should be spoilt by house conversion. This idea probably originates from the proposals of architects Fielden and Mawson. Their proposals for the mill are a nightmare to anyone who understands and cares for our old mills. As a 'good example' of what can be done their report shows Ellingham mill on the River Waveney. This mill was working twelve years ago and a comparison between then and now speaks for itself. It is typical of how most of our watermills have been spoiled. In fairness to Fielden and Mawson, perhaps the brief included instructions for house conversion of the mill and we would agree that as a last resort it is better that total loss, the mill building at least marking the site of the mill. To propose this as the best solution, to call it conservation and worthy of grants for conservation makes us almost despair. Councils and most architects are curiously blind to the special needs of mills. They are grouped with barns, maltings, warehouses, stables, etc., all buildings enclosing space which can have a wide variety of uses. In a mill it is the machinery enclosed by the building that is the most important part, not the building. Even societies concerned with the proper restoration and maintenance of mills lack realistic policy

which can be put before the planners. Because they obviously cannot finance restoration and maintenance of all mills themselves the authorities neglect their duty of guidance. This is quite illogical. There must be thousands of listed cottages and farmhouses in Suffolk maintained almost entirely by their owners, but with the authorities responsible for guidance but not finance. Why does it not work for mills? Perhaps it is partly due to the reputation some mills have for swallowing large sums of money and then asking for even more. It is still a common attitude that once one of each type of mill has been 'preserved' then the rest can go. Imagine applying that to Suffolk's churches!

In the event Babergh D.C. turned down the Layham application, but the proposals for Kersey mill were approved by Suffolk C.C. Planning and Countryside Sub Committee. The authorities were doubtless influenced by the status quo of a working mill at Layham within a small brick building and a very derelict one at Kersey, within a very large timber framed and weatherboarded building. There is no reason why a compromise could not be found at both mills which would please everyone and conserve the mills without spoiling them by house conversion. It has been done before.

As well as causing us to study very closely Kersey and Layham mills these two applications raised so many questions of policy (or rather the lack of it); definitions; the role of local authorities and of private enterprise; mill management and the local potential help for a mill (which is always there but seldom used); the 'listing' of mills under the planning Acts as buildings of architectural or historic interest and the degree of protection given (if any). There has been so much wrong for so long now it is too late for most mills. Now only a handful remain with the potential for restoration.

We will try to work out a 'broad brush' policy, at the same time recommending revisions to the statutory lists, which include mills completely demolished! We can probably reduce the number of mills which are 'listed buildings', thereby achieving greater protection for those remaining. We will submit our proposals to the County and District Councils, S.P.A.B., local amenity societies and anyone else interested. We can but try!

NEWS

CROSSWORD RESULTS

Eight entries were received to the Prize Crossword featured in the last Newsletter; of these, six were correct - from Brian Flint, Viv Harvey, Peter Hill, J. Pelling, Bob Stevens and Graham Wilson. The winner drawn by our Chairman was Mr. J. Pelling from Sussex, who wins a copy of 'Windmills in Suffolk'. The solution is given below:

Across 1 SUFFOLK; 5 POLDERS; 9 EYE; 10 CLOCK; 11 AUGER; 12 SET; 13 TITT; 14 ISLE; 19 PALTRON; 20 QUARTER; 21 RYND; 22 LUCAM or LOCUM; 24 LAVA; 26 COMMONSAIL-CLOTH; 29 SWEEPS; 30 SIFTER

Down 1 SACKTRAP; 2 FLOAT; 3 OAKS; 4 KERSEY; 5 PELTON; 6 LEAT; 7 EDGES; 8 SCREENER; 15 PLAN; 16 POLLEND; 17 PUGMILL; 18 ETNA; 21 RECOGS; 23 CLAMPS; 25 ASHLAR; 27 MACE; 28 LUFF

PROGRESS ON EAST BRIDGE MILL

Jameson Marshall Ltd. are pressing ahead with the reconstruction of the former marsh

mill and when Chris Hullcoop and I last visited Wickham Market (with Rex Wailes) in February, the cap and curb had been finished, the four sails had been built, the boring job of making 168 shutters was drawing to a close and work was about to start on the tower. We were all very pleased at the high standards being achieved and await the actual erection on site with anticipation.

As an interesting aside, the County Surveyor has loaned the services of one of his Civil Engineers, Joe Pegler, to the Museum of East Anglian Life to carry out any structural design work necessary for the project (basically the foundations), and due to the nature of the site, which has about 20ft. of peat over soft clay, a piled foundation has been chosen as the cheapest and easiest to construct. This will be comprised of eight concrete piles in a ring, with a reinforced ring beam capping them from which the brickwork will spring. Jameson Marshall have calculated the weight of the whole of the superstructure, sails, machinery, etc., as being 11.5 tons, a weight that surprised several people. So when next someone asks you "How much does a windmill weigh?", you can tell them!

P.C.J.D.

HERRINGFLEET MILL

As Members will probably realise, this mill, normally visited and worked regularly by S.M.G., has been out of action since the autumn of 1977 because of the poor structural condition of the tower. The Historic Buildings Council has now promised a grant of £1,500 to help with the cost of repair work, which it is hoped will be carried out by the summer.

A condition of the grant is that the mill will be open to the public on regular occasions (at least five times a year), so there should be even more opportunity in the future to see this fine drainage mill at work (and for the Group to run it!).

TIDE MILL APPOINTMENT

Woodbridge Tide Mill has recently appointed a warden. He is Mr. John Smith, of 17, Clare Avenue, Woodbridge, a former engineer with Woodbridge U.D.C.. He took up his (unique?) job on February 1st.. He'll be in charge of the day to day running of the mill and promoting it to the public. Last year 1,400 school children visited the mill, and the new warden will be hoping to encourage even more parties in the future. M.W.

S.P.A.B. 50th. ANNIVERSARY

This year is the 50th. anniversary of the formation of the Windmill Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and to mark the occasion a special exhibition has been prepared (which will be available for hire) and a commemorative token minted. It is also hoped that as many mills as possible can be 'dressed overall' with bunting or flags from June onwards. S.M.G. hope to arrange this at some of the mills in the county.

At the present time the work of the Wind and Watermill Section of S.P.A.B. is undergoing a review, and one aspect which will be examined is the role of the local mills groups, of which there are five. To enable these matters to be discussed a meeting has been organised in London on May 19th. between S.P.A.B. and representatives of the local groups. News of this will be reported in the next Newsletter (and also at our A.G.M. which happens to be on the following day).

EVENTS

VISIT TO WICKHAM MARKET WATERMILL: SUNDAY APRIL 22nd. 1979 at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. Robert Rackham has very kindly agreed to our visit to Wickham Market Mills. He and his brother Edward (who passed on nearly ten years ago now) ran the mill for many years. Bob Rackham has seen the mills at their very best and sadly their decline in recent years. What a fine milling business it must have been with the wheel-driven stone mill and, just across the yard, a fine Whitmore and Binyon roller mill driven by a steam engine. Whitmores exported all over the world but there were no shipping problems with Rackham's mill which stands only 200 yards from the site of their works! Many of us have happy memories of Edward and Robert working the mill and we are fortunate this is recorded on film. We are very lucky to be shown round by Bob Rackham himself (the 'R.T.') of that famous name E.R. & R.T. Rackham. There is no stone milling done now, but still some feed milling.

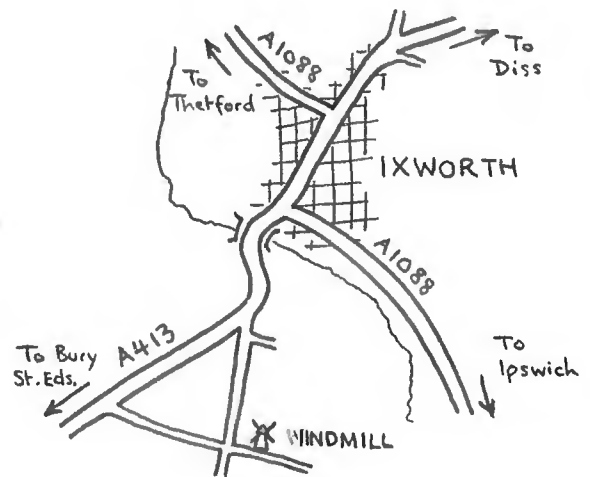
Unlike most watermills this mill is easily found. Drive right through Wickham Market from the Ipswich direction on the old A12 and you will see it on the left.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: SUNDAY MAY 20th. (11 a.m. start) AT PAKENHAM WINDMILL

This year our Annual General Meeting will be held at Pakenham windmill, beginning at 11 a.m.. We hope Members will bring a pic-nic lunch and stay to view the windmill in the afternoon. Members may bring their own slides along for viewing at the end of the meeting ^{& the watermill}.

Below is an outline Agenda; any special resolutions from Members must reach me at least 21 days before the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last A.G.M..
3. Business arising from the minutes.
4. Report on year from Committee members
(illustrated).
5. Presentation of accounts.
6. Election of officers and Committee for the coming year.
7. Any other business.
8. Close - Members' slides & viewing windmill.



Would Members keen to help run the Group care to consider joining the Committee? We have one vacancy to fill and there may be more at the A.G.M. if anyone wishes to retire.

Peter Dolman (Hon.Sec.)

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Other Events

Friends of Norfolk Windmills will be holding their A.G.M. on Wednesday May 9th. at Norwich Central Library. Details from the Secretary - Chris Seago, 33, Acacia Road, Thorpe St. Andrew, Norwich.

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