

SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter Number 10

MAY 1979

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In recent weeks the Committee has been kept very busy organising and attending meetings and arranging future visits and our programme of practical work for the summer. We are continuing our policy of undertaking small-scale repairs to a number of different mills, and to this end I hope Members will be able to support our week's 'work in' in August at Bardwell and Stanton (see 'Events'). Please also note what promises to be two very enjoyable visits - to Thorrington Street watermill (Stoke by Nayland) and to the newly-restored (fingers crossed!) Herringfleet. Bring along all the family.

Membership is also coming along very nicely (we shall soon claim our hundredth victim!), as are sales of 'Windmills in Suffolk'. We approach the summer with cautious optimism!

Mark Barnard

WINDMILLS IN THE BOROUGH OF IPSWICH (2) PETER DOLMAN

ST. HELENS, IPSWICH

22. & 23. Albion Hill (south side of Woodbridge Road) (1753,4497)

The post mill south of Albion Mills was one of the oldest mills in the town. It is first shown in 1783 and is mentioned in sale adverts in 1796 and 1798. At this time it had a single pair of French stones and a large roundhouse.

In 1804 it was sold, together with a nearby 'Drug Windmill with iron cylinders and going gears'. Both mills were to be taken down and cleared away. It seems that the post mill survived, however.

The small drug mill is a bit of an enigma, nothing further having come to light about it. A possible site could be the circle shown on Monson's map of 1848 at the 'Lunatic Asylum' nearby, at Grid Reference 1751,4486.

The post mill continued meanwhile. In 1821 it was to be sold or let, and had two pairs of stones. A mill was 'to be removed' in 1824, although this may have referred to another mill (see later). About 1850 a long period of occupation began with Robert Andrews, who had one of the Stoke mills a little earlier, and had been made bankrupt at Bramfield (near Halesworth) in 1842. He ran the mill into his 70's, being last recorded in 1871. James Wood was occupier in 1873, though the mill may have ceased work by this time. It was still standing in 1877, when its presence was noted in a report of the opening of the Felixstowe Railway. It had gone by 1881 and Belle Vue Road now covers the site. An old house called 'Mill House' stands near the site, but was not in fact the miller's house, this also being covered by the road now. The site is perpetuated in 'Post Mill Close', a recent development behind the 'Mill House', though some way from the actual site.

24. & 25. South side of Woodbridge Road (1769,4501 and 1771,4507)

These two mills are shown only on Bryant's map, surveyed in 1825, and Greenwood (1823) misses them, though this is probably an error as he omits several mills known to have stood at this date.

A sale notice in 1824 may refer to one of them, although its description matches the mill above (No.22) and also says 'to be removed'. One of the mills was a smock mill; an advert in 1824 offers to be let 'a small smock windmill - in St. Helens Parish'.

Both mills had gone by the 1836-7 O.S. map and nothing further is known about them at present.

SUNDRY MILLS IN OLD IPSWICH

26. Lingfield's Hill (St. Clements) (approx. 172,443)

This open trestle post mill is marked on Ogilby's map of 1674 on 'Lingfield's Hill', which corresponds to the hill in Alexandra Park overlooking the Suffolk College. Old paintings and engravings show a mill at or near this site in the early eighteenth century but it had gone by 1778, although Kirby's map of 1736 omits it (this is very inaccurate though).

In 1978 a pair of 3 ft. 'Cullen' stones were found near here and there is perhaps some slim chance that they might have come from this mill.

27. & 28. Corporation Marshes (approx. 160,441 and approx. 160,442)

One of these mills was taken down in 1733, although 'lately erected' by Lawrence Rainbird. The other was erected that year by Thomas Flintoft, on condition that it be demolished before the expiry of the lease. Kirby's 1736 map marks two mills here, so some degree of overlap seems to have taken place. Kirby's map is terribly inaccurate since it shows Handford watermill south of the windmills, on the tidal Orwell, when it was in fact to the north on the freshwater River Gipping. Pennington's map of 1778 misses them, but Hodskinson (1783) shows one. Both had gone by 1805 and nothing more is known about them. The site was built over in the nineteenth century.

Early References

Lilian Redstone, in 'Ipswich Through the Ages' (1948), records that in 1332 Geoffrey Costyn recovered £10 in damages against John Bande the elder, who had built a windmill on a mount 25 feet high which overlooked his grounds and disturbed his privacy, contrary to the immemorable custom of the Borough that no-one should erect a building so as to overlook a neighbour through a window or otherwise. This principle is still applied today.

The 'Annals of Ipswich' by Nathaniel Bacon mention that in 1588 'the erection of John Parvise's windmill shall be considered off by the Councill Learned of the Towne'.

WINDMILLS FORMERLY IN PARISHES OUTSIDE IPSWICH

29. Wicks Ufford Hamlet, Rushmere (1916,4403)

The 'Ipswich Journal' in 1794 advertises to be sold 'a post windmill ... situated in the Hamlet of Wicks Ufford, in Ipswich, now in the occupation of Robert Nixon'. It is not certain which mill this refers to but I think the one in Rushmere parish along

the Foxhall Road is the likely candidate. This mill was first shown on the 1812 map of Ipswich; Greenwood names it as 'Goodwin's Mill' in 1823 but Bryant in 1825 marks a mill on Brook Hill further along the Foxhall Road at Grid Reference 211,438. At first I thought this was a mistake as no other map shows a mill here but the Rushmere tithe map of 1845 names this site as 'Mill Field'. As it is not in Ipswich Borough I will avoid the issue!

'Goodwin's Mill' or 'Gooding's' as it should have been called, after S.R. Gooding, its owner, was occupied by Charles Smith in 1839. He advertised it to be let in 1840, and S.R. Gooding advertised it to be let in 1841 and again in 1842, when Smith left the mill, auctioning off his furniture and effects - perhaps he had hit hard times. His name is later linked with the smock mill on the Woodbridge Road, which stood within sight of this mill across the heath.

The mill seems to have been sold, for in 1845 'widow Newson' was owner, with William Dawson as occupier. He is listed in the 1851 Census as living in Wicks Ufford Hamlet, Rushmere, and ran the mill until its demise, which was about 1884. The site is devoid of all mill remains, though the miller's cottage still stands in the grounds of St. Clements Hospital.

From the sale adverts it would seem to have been a big mill; in 1842 it was a 'superior, large and substantial POST WIND-MILL' with a roundhouse capable of holding 400 coombs of corn. 'The mill stands well winded, with Patent Sails, drives 3 pair of French Stones, Flour mill, jumper and smut machine'.

Just outside the present Borough boundary stood the tall Rushmere smock mill, which was built c.1840 by Henry Collins of Melton, and owned by him for several years, let to Henry Betts. After the post mill was demolished the Dawsons took this mill, running it until 1928. It was demolished just before the war and the site is now marked by a new housing development, 'The Mills'.

30. & 31. Westerfield Mill (Earlier site approx. 169,477; later site 1697,4737)

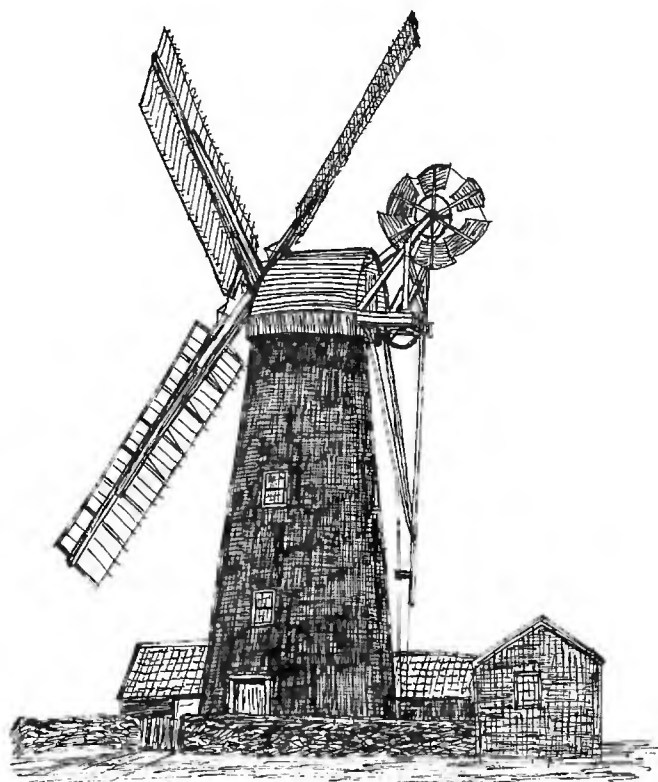
The village of Westerfield is now cut in half by the Borough boundary, and Ipswich now claims the windmill. This was advertised in 1795 to be sold by auction: 'A smock windmill lately new built with 2 pair of stones, flour mill and other going gears, situate on Westerfield Green...'. The Enclosure map of 1808 marks it, as does the 1805 O.S. map, at the south-west corner of the Green, north of the present 'Mill Farm'.

In 1811 it was again advertised as a 'Capital new-built smock windmill' and had '1 pair of 4 ft. 6 ins. French and 1 pair 3 ft. 10 ins. Peak Stones, with regulators to each, 1 flour mill, 3 floors...'. By Bransby's map of 1812 it had been moved or re-built on a mound just south of Mill Farm. In 1839 the Rev. Mileson Edgar (the local vicar) owned it and William Barrett Threadgell (aged 50) was miller, employing one man; trades directories of 1853 and 1858 name him as W.B. Threadkell. Who knows which spelling is correct! The mill appears to have disappeared in the late 1860's and nothing remains.

32. & 33. Whitton (Early site approx. 147,474; tower mill 1429,4754)

The tithe map of 1840 names a field near the church as 'Mill Mount'; this presumably is a field name recalling a very early mill about which nothing more is known.

The tower mill at Whitton is first shown on the 1836-7 O.S. map. In 1830 Thomas Codd is named as miller, and in 1839 William Jupp. In 1840 it was owned and occupied by Edward Field. Field continued at the mill in the 1840's and '50's, to be replaced by George Self who ran the mill until it closed. At one time it was owned by the man who ran Albion Mill and the tower mill in North Hill Road. It was still working in 1885 but must have finished soon after. It had gone by 1900 and nothing now remains. A good photograph of it has survived (from which the drawing opposite is based) and this shows it to have been a nicely proportioned but smallish four storey tarred brick tower mill. The boat-shaped cap had a six bladed fly with a tailpole chain guide and four seven bay double shuttered patent sails. It looks unmistakably like the work of Collins, being virtually a brick version of Leiston smock mill, built by Henry Collins of Melton in 1840.



WHITTON MILL c.1880.

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ADDENDA

Since compiling the article I have been investigating the parish rate books for St. Margarets; these run from 1854 until the end of the nineteenth century and record the owner, occupier, estimated annual rent and rates for a specific property. As such, they are an invaluable guide to when a mill ceased work, was pulled down, or indeed built. As a result, the following more accurate information can be substituted for the previous notes (see Newsletter 9).

14. Folly Mill, Tuddenham Road This mill disappeared between May 1864 and June 1865. The last miller was William Bird.

16. Bank Road, Albion Hill: This mill in fact worked until 1866 and had a steam mill added in 1861. Both were pulled down in 1869, having stood vacant for three years. The last miller, who also owned it, was Isaac Thurman. It was probably not moved as previously suggested.

17. & 18. Albion Mills: Both were owned by J.J. Bedwell until their demise. The South Mill was last worked in 1864 by Charles Fuller and then stood vacant until demolition in 1876. The North Mill was still working in 1885, occupied by Arthur Cox, but I cannot say at the present time when it ceased work.

19. Sidegate Lane: This mill ceased work in 1869, Charles Smith being the last occupier; it was gone by 1870 and in that year the new steam mill was erected by Smith in Woodbridge Road (St. Johns Mill). James Rivers left the mill in 1867.

20. 'Lattice Barn', Woodbridge Road: This mill did not appear in the 1850's as previously stated, and T. Elvin was miller at Bank Road Mill. The 'Lattice Land Mill' as it should be known was not in fact erected until late 1879 or early 1880, by Charles Smith, who ten years earlier had established a steam mill nearby. This is very strange, as steam mills usually follow windmills and not vice versa! It would appear to have been pulled down finally in 1927 or early 1928, and was known as 'Smith's Windmill' in the 1920's.

I'm only up to 1885 in the rate books so cannot yet say when Albion Mill and the Tower Mill (North Hill Road) ceased work.

Thanks must go to Bob Malster for putting me on to the rate books as a source of information; also to the staff of Ipswich Record Office, County Hall, who are most helpful.

S.P.A.B. - LOCAL MILLS GROUPS MEETING CHRIS HULLCOOP

Arriving at Ipswich Station in good time, Mark Barnard and I boarded the 08.42 non-stop to London. Mountnessing post mill soon flashed by and we were quickly at Liverpool Street Station, that splendid terminus of the Great Eastern Railway. A short tube ride, a brisk walk and we were outside the door of No. 55, Great Ormond Street, an address as famous to us as 101, Baker Street and 10, Downing Street. We were ushered into the fine first floor meeting room with its mahogany bookcases, eighteenth century porcelain and William Morris looking down from his portrait.

Present were Rex Wailes, President of the S.P.A.B. Wind and Watermill Section, Ken Major, its Chairman, and Mayling Hargreaves, Secretary. Committee members present were Jenny West, Douglas Platt, Mike Field, Martin Watts, Nicholas Bagshawe, Tony Austin, Bob Tyssen-Gee, Alan Stoyel and Kenneth Reid. East Kent Mills Group were represented by Paul Jarvis and Alan Wallis, Cambridgeshire Wind and Watermill Society by Bob Stevens and his wife, Midlands Wind and Watermills Group by John Bedington, Hampshire industrial archaeologists by John Silman, the Mills Recording Group by David Jones and Norman Plaistow and finally our two S.M.G. representatives.

We were welcomed by chairman Ken Major, who briefly outlined the history of the Section. He asked us to bear with the Committee as it gathered itself after the retirement of two very distinguished members - Mrs. Monica Dance and Lord Wilson. Most of us have happy memories of 'Mrs. D.' at the meetings, dealing with individual mill cases and especially on the tours when she was mother to us all. We wish her a long and happy retirement at Methwold in Norfolk, and we must keep her posted with news of Suffolk mills, for which she worked so hard over many years.

Ken Major told us of the sheer cost of running the Section. Some 600 members pay around £5 per annum, yielding about £3,000 each year. The cost of a full-time secretary with overheads in central London would now be around £10,000 per annum; this would require a large increase in membership or in subscription rates, neither of which is realistic. Mayling Hargreaves devotes 25 hours per week to the Section, which is subsidised by the main body of the S.P.A.B.. The budget is very tight and all conferences and mill tours must pay for themselves and if possible show a profit.

We were told of the day to day work of the Section - dealing with enquiries (averaging about 40 a week); advising private owners, museums and local authorities on technical aspects as well as fund raising and grant availability; giving more detailed reports on specific mills; planning casework, where local government has a statutory responsibility to inform the S.P.A.B. of planning applications affecting listed buildings; finally, opposing the iniquitous Water Resources Act. Local authorities allow only 21 days for comments on planning applications and often much of this time has elapsed before the facts reach the S.P.A.B., leaving no time for full Committee discussion. Ken Major and Kenneth Reid now deal directly with this, often 'phoning their comments if the deadline is near. Mills groups can help by prompt briefing on the local situation.

Ken Major would like to see many improvements - perhaps a Sub-Committee to issue a newsletter, and another to manage the Section's wind and watermill records. He described the local groups as 'front line troops' and stressed the importance of good communications with the Section. To ensure the continuity of skills required by volunteers in repairing and working mills, holding open days, etc., it is vital to foster the interest of new members (especially young ones), perhaps following on the lines of the Dutch 'Gilde van Vrijwillige Molenaars' (Guild of Voluntary Millers).

Ken Major then introduced Tony Austin of East Kent Mills Group who spoke on his Group's foundation, achievements and hopes for the future. The three founder members, all students at Wye College, had now moved away and Mark and I listened with some envy as he told us how there had been sufficient people interested in being main executive Committee members to ensure the Group's survival. (This point was made again later in the day when John Silman told us how as a matter of policy their group changes its executive every three years - this is how the other half live!)

Tony told us that the benefits of S.P.A.B. affiliation were a little difficult to define. In principle it meant communication, discussion and co-operation, and formed a link with expertise on everything from paint and timber to planning policy, fund raising and insurance problems. Their affiliation with a society as respected as the S.P.A.B. helped to give the Group more credibility locally. Being founded over 100 years ago by William Morris (have we not all 'name dropped' our founder at some time) and having 'the Society's Rooms' at a fine old central London address all helps to impress. Perhaps most important is the continuity of internationally respected work and advice. Contrast this with the fragility of the local groups. The Midlands Group faded a little after the departure of Derek Ogden. It is a sad but true fact of life that so much can depend on the presence, activity and personal circumstances of one or a few people. I was relieved the S.P.A.B. realise this. We have to try to counteract it by encouraging others, especially the young, but must be realists. As Ken Major put it: 'Let's work with a group and achieve as much as we can while it is there'.

There was some discussion as to whether members of groups affiliated to the S.P.A.B. were full members of S.P.A.B.. We could not see how you could get 'two for the price of one'. Real enthusiasts would join their local group, the S.P.A.B. at

national level and perhaps TMS for the international scene. It was suggested that the S.P.A.B. and the local groups publish dates of main events well in advance and try not to clash, and even attempt to co-ordinate newsletter publication dates. A good idea but we suggest very difficult in practice.

After a half-hour break for a splendid salad lunch prepared by Mrs. Major we returned to discuss the plans, hopes, fears and frustrations of the groups. We were able to outline S.M.G.'s draft policy and hand round copies of this. Reaction to our ideas was favourable but Ken Major pointed out our responsibility must extend to more minor remains although much lower in priority than complete mills. There was some discussion on the definition of restoration and indeed how to define a mill. Rex Wailes drew our attention to the very different role of the mill buildings in wind and water mills, with the windmill and its building forming a complete machine. John Bedington of the Midlands Group spoke of identifying the best mills still remaining and stressed the value of personal contact with planning departments, gaining their confidence and co-operation, and drawing their attention to threatened mills. Bob Stevens of Cambridgeshire told us how they were establishing good communications with the County Council but were frustrated when faced by demolition by neglect, as at Six Mile Bottom post mill. Local Councils were very reluctant to use compulsory purchase powers because of bad publicity and the subsequent burden on the rates. Ken Major emphasised that an authority, if it compulsorily purchases a mill, has to restore it itself or hand it over to a trust who would.

We asked about the S.P.A.B.'s 'estate agent' service for would-be buyers and restorers of mills. This is already established and working but we felt it would help if names of mill seekers were also sent to the mills groups who could advise on mills likely to be for sale or where an approach to the owner might be helpful.

We asked if the Section had an up-to-date policy statement and were told that a paper on this was in preparation. In general the policy was in the many years of casework and it was reassuring to know that alternatives are given when an owner or local authority seeks advice on a mill. It is rare for the Section to issue a negative report and say 'this is beyond help'. Martin Watts illustrated this with a case in Yorkshire concerning a large derelict tower mill which would obviously produce an estimate of astronomical size if a millwright were asked to restore to full working order. Alternatives such as preserving it as a tower with machinery, but no prospect of a winding cap or sails in the near future, and a cheap holding operation were proposed. This sounds fine and contrasts with the 'all or nothing' approach which might have been appropriate years ago when there were more mills but not today.

There then followed an interesting discussion on the number of mills we should preserve and how visitors can help finance the restoration and maintenance of a mill. There seem to be no firm rules. Splendid restorations have been achieved for very little, while similar mills have cost ten times as much only to be neglected and require further large sums. So much depends on the skills (of management as well as millwrighting) and the energy and dedication of those responsible. Tourists today are not all the 'once you have seen one you have seen the lot' brigade. An ever increasing

number are discerning and will go to an area with something specific to see, like East Anglian windmills. As a reciprocal of this tourists (and we are all tourists now) have a sense of their own place and a pride in their own regional identity which must be good for the preservation of mills.

John Silman wondered if the S.P.A.B. were concerned with the modern use of wind power in helping to avert the 'energy crisis'. Although the Society is not involved in the field of modern technology, Ken Major confirmed that the importance of the old mill in the world of today and tomorrow is a central theme in the work of the Section, a subject in itself which could take up a whole debate.

David Jones and Norman Flaistow spoke on the recently-formed Mills Recording Group. This will be trying to encourage more people to contribute to a recording system established many years ago but maintained by only a few people who could not possibly cover the whole country. The Chairman pointed out that this would have to be integrated with the existing recording system and the Group could act as a Recording Sub-Committee of the Section. It was pleasing to hear there was broad agreement on this; we feel there are dangers in a group 'going out on a limb'. If there are differences these should be the subject of debate. Every organisation is made up of people with different opinions but the same broad aims. This is something positive and only becomes dangerous when someone says 'I know I am right' rather than 'I think I am right'.

Individual mill trusts and mill repair projects centered on one mill were not in the same category as mills groups and communication between them and the Section was achieved in the normal way. We asked about possible mills group representation on the Wind and Watermill Section Committee. Ken Major told us this was something under review and he favoured close contact with the groups by correspondence and 'phone. For the time being Mike Field and Alan Stoyel would have the responsibility of liaising with the representatives of local groups.

The afternoon passed all too quickly and it was soon time to round off with a selection of slides of Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Lancashire mills from the Mitford Abraham collection.

At the end of the day we felt a little like the employees of a family firm grown large and taken over. Gone were the days when the governor knew us all by name. I wonder if members of the Wind and Watermill Section will ever meet the new S.P.A.B. Secretary David Pearce? It does not seem many years ago that the Windmill and Watermill Meetings were held at No.55, but change is inevitable and interest is growing, many more mills are being restored and the S.P.A.B. is equipping itself for the 1980's.

RAMSEY MILL IN THE '30's MIKE ORGAN

When repairing the sails on Ramsey post mill last year, we found that one sail was in much better condition than the other three. At the time we guessed that it had been renewed for some reason. The following article from the 'Harwich and Dovercourt Standard' of 8th. August 1931 sheds more light on this. It's entitled 'STORM DAMAGE -

Ramsey Mill Struck'.

'The severe storm which broke over the district on Tuesday evening was not without its effect on Harwich and district.

At Ramsey the windmill belonging to Mr. J. Brooks, which is a distinctive landmark in the district, was struck by the lightning. The lightning ran down one of the sails, igniting it.

The local fire brigade, under Mr. Frank Ellis were soon on the scene, but owing to the elevated position of the mill it was found that the supply of hose kept in the village was insufficient to bring a supply of water to the outbreak.

However the men who were on the scene showed commendable ingenuity and with a length of rope pulled the burning sail downwards and with buckets of water quelled the outbreak, which while only very small might easily have gained a strong hold, but for the prompt action of the village fire fighters. Mr. James Gilbert climbed to the burning sail and the buckets of water were handed to him.

He with Mr. Ellis and Mr. Jack Wright, who have been commended for their excellent work, prevented the fire reaching the adjoining premises as well as the mill itself.

During the time that the outbreak was being dealt with a telephone message was sent to Harwich Fire Brigade, who were unable to attend as Ramsey is outside their district. Eventually the call was put through to Parkeston where additional hose is stored and within a very short time this was taken to Ramsey by Mr. T. Lemm by car, and made the total hose sufficient to reach practically any building in the village'.

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A.G.M. REPORT

Our second Annual General Meeting was held at Pakenham - or, to be more precise, in a farm building in the shadow of Mike Bryant's fine tower mill. We decided to hold the A.G.M. a month later than last year in the hope of better weather, but unfortunately the morning was rather wet and cold, although things did brighten up a bit in the afternoon. Sixteen Members came along to the meeting and together with families and guests, 24 people were present in all. Apologies were received from Mike Weaver, Graham Wilson and Chris Seago. Proceedings commenced at 11.35 a.m. with Chairman Chris Hullcoop giving a brief opening address. At this point Reg Clover arrived, bringing the sad news of the death of Bryan Marriage just a few hours earlier (see 'News'). The minutes of the previous A.G.M. were accepted by those present and signed by the Chairman. In the absence of Mike Weaver, the Group's treasurer for the last year, the accounts were presented by Secretary Peter Dolman (copy enclosed). Don Porter proposed that these be accepted subject to audit (and the correction of typing errors!); this was seconded by Brian Flint and was agreed.

Editor Mark Barnard then reported on the Group's publications during the past year, including the five Newsletters and 'Windmills in Suffolk' by Peter Dolman. He hoped to maintain the present standard of the Newsletters provided sufficient material was forthcoming.

Election of officers followed. Reg Clover spoke up in support of the three officers conducting the meeting (Chairman, Secretary and Editor) and proposed their re-election for (yet!) another year, as they were all willing to continue. This was seconded by Chris Armour and agreed. Brian Flint indicated his willingness to step into the vacant post of treasurer (Mike Weaver having decided to stand down); this was agreed. Des Codd and John Snowdon agreed to stay on as ordinary Committee members, and this was also agreed. Mike Organ volunteered to fill the remaining vacant seat on the Committee;

Chris Hullcoop proposed this and Mark Barnard seconded it; in the absence of any other names put forward this was therefore agreed. Incidentally, the S.M.G. Committee is now at 'full strength' for the first time since the Group was formed.

On the question of subscriptions, Mark Barnard suggested that the rates should remain the same for another year. However, Peter Dolman commented that the Friends of Norfolk Windmills just have a flat membership rate, with no differentiation between 'mailing' and 'ordinary' membership for the sake of simplicity. As S.M.G. now had relatively few 'mailing' Members he suggested that this category of membership be done away with, especially as such Members were paying less than the more active Members. This was proposed by John Snowdon and seconded by Chris Armour and agreed. When mailing Members' subscriptions expire they will be invited to renew as full Members at the subscription of £2.50.

Don Porter asked whether the Group could make its own funds available for repair work. Chris Hullcoop replied that although our balance appeared healthy, the Group must allow a considerable sum for contingencies, such as possible breakage of the many expensive tools borrowed. Mark Barnard said he thought S.M.G. was in a similar position to the S.P.A.B. - with very limited funds only enabling a token donation to be made to repair work. Nonetheless, he said it may be worth considering opening a separate account covering repair work expenses. Chris Hullcoop said that the repairs we can do are as much limited by the number of volunteer workers as they are by finance.

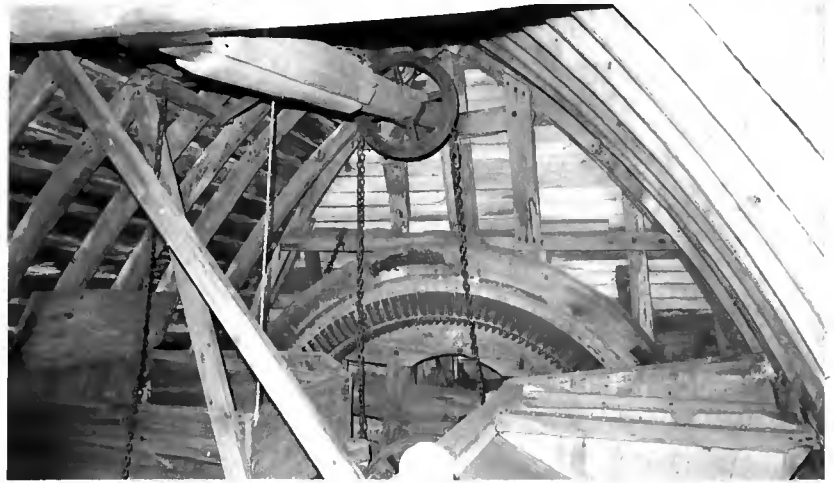
The formal business over, it remained to show slides of the Group's work over the last year, including the repair work at Ramsey and Drinkstone, and the visits to the roller mill at Felixstowe Dock, to the River Waveney (boat trip) and to Wickham Market and Layham watermills (among others).

The remainder of the day was spent looking round the tower mill, and (by kind permission of John Popham, Director of Suffolk Preservation Society) Pakenham watermill, enabling Members to see at first hand the extent and progress of the repair work. Not only was John Popham good enough to show us round and answer our questions on the work, but he also got the wheel going as well!

Thanks to the Committee for organising another successful A.G.M. - especially to Chris Hullcoop who, true to form, was over at Pakenham at nine o'clock in the morning setting things up after a tiring meeting in London the day before!

NEW BOOKS

'WATER AND WIND MILLS IN HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT' Edited by Monica Ellis; published by Southampton University Industrial Archaeology Group; 1978. £1.50. This is an excellent comprehensive survey of the surviving mills of Hampshire, describing the remains to be found at some 220 watermill and 10 windmill sites. Additional historical information has been added from the notes of the late H.E.S. Simmons. The book is well illustrated with many photographs and some technical drawings, and also contains a list of the mills by river catchment areas, notes on watercourse variations and a glossary of terms. It is also nice to see a good distribution map, sensibly placed in the centre spread. Very good value for money.



STANTON MILL March 1979 (Photos: M.J.Barnard)

Top left: Exterior

Top right: Bin floor

Above: Stone floor; note wooden upright shaft

Left: Meal floor, with drive to stones

BARDWELL MILL March 1979 (Photos: M.J.Barnard)

Below: Exterior. The cap roof was on until recently

Below left: The fine great spur wheel



BOOKS ON KENT MILLS

We have recently been contacted by a bookseller in Kent who has bought the remainder of the stocks of the reprinted 'Windmills and Watermills' by William Coles Finch which appeared a few years ago. Then, it cost £10, which was possibly a bit expensive, but now the price is an incredible £4.95, or £5.95 post free. This makes it a real bargain for it is well produced and an absolute facsimile of the original. Cheques or postal orders may be sent to: Maresborough Books, 7, Station Road, Rainham, Kent.

Also re-issued is Jenny West's more recent survey of the surviving Kent windmills, 'The Windmills of Kent', which sold out within a few months of original publication in 1973. There has been a small amount of revision carried out, bringing the story up to date, and some very good old pictures are being added to increase the historical interest. The price is £4.95, or £5.50 post free, from: Skilton and Shaw, 52, Lincolns Inn Fields, London WC2A 3NW.

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Members may wish to be reminded that Peter Dolman's book 'Windmills in Suffolk' is still available, price £1.95 or £2.20 post free from the author (address on p.1) New Members requiring back numbers of Newsletters can also obtain them from the Secretary. Numbers 1 - 5 cost 15p. each and numbers 6 - 9 are 20p. each. Please allow a little for postage!

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NEWS

BRYAN MARRIAGE

At our A.G.M. Reg Clover gave us the sad news of the death earlier in the day of his brother-in-law Bryan Marriage, who owned and worked Pakenham watermill for about 40 years. Many of us have memories of him working the mill through the 1960's and it was the highlight of the S.P.A.B. tour in Suffolk in 1967.

Last year he had taken cine film of our work on the cap roof at Drinkstone smock mill and he was looking forward to more filming of this year's work. He met Peter Dolman and I at Pakenham on Good Friday to help us sort out the correct pulleys for running the mill with the Blackstone engine. The following Saturday he was at Drinkstone with us where he was starting to fit wire netting to the cap frame to keep out birds. Living nearby at Norton Old Rectory he kept an eye on the post mill and checked the winding gear regularly. He was looking forward to advising in the setting up of the machinery and the working again of his old mill. Now we have lost not only a good friend but a great store of knowledge on the working mill. In the old days when local mills were in daily use they were stopped for a while on the death of a miller. We felt it appropriate that the wheel of his old mill was turning for a while on Sunday afternoon after our A.G.M., and we hope that one day the mill will be in production again. This is what he would have wished. C.H.

REPAIRS TO HERRINGFLEET, BUTTRUM'S AND HOLTON WINDMILLS

Following our lengthy report to the County Council regarding the condition of the windmills in their care, we are pleased to announce that matters are in hand. At

Herringfleet work has already started, and Jameson Marshall Ltd. hope to finish working there by July, ready for our 'Grand Open Day' (see 'Events' for details).

At Buttrum's Mill, Woodbridge, and at Holton mill, where serious decay threatens both mills, the Council has asked for detailed reports and estimates for repair from Jameson Marshall Ltd., and acting on these they have put sums in next year's 'estimates' for full repairs to both, which in the case of Buttrum's Mill includes getting the cap turning to wind, and the sails turnable. So it looks like some progress might be seen in the next few years with these two 'exterior only' restorations.

PROGRESS ON EAST BRIDGE MILL

Jameson Marshall Ltd. have completed the cap, sails and framing and are at present awaiting completion of the foundation work by the specialists, which has been held up by the miserable weather of recent months. With luck, we might see something appearing above ground within a month or so, so Members in the Stowmarket area might like to check on progress through the summer.

SAXTEAD MILL TRAGEDY

Members will probably have heard of the tragic accident in Saxtead mill on April 24th., when eight year old Simon Sullivan, the grandson of the owner, died after being crushed by the brakewheel around which he was playing. This throws into sharp focus the whole question of safety precautions in mills, especially near moving machinery, something about which S.M.G. is very concerned. We hope to discuss this subject in a future Newsletter. At the time of writing Saxtead mill is still closed to the public.

LIKE TO BUY AN OLD MILL?

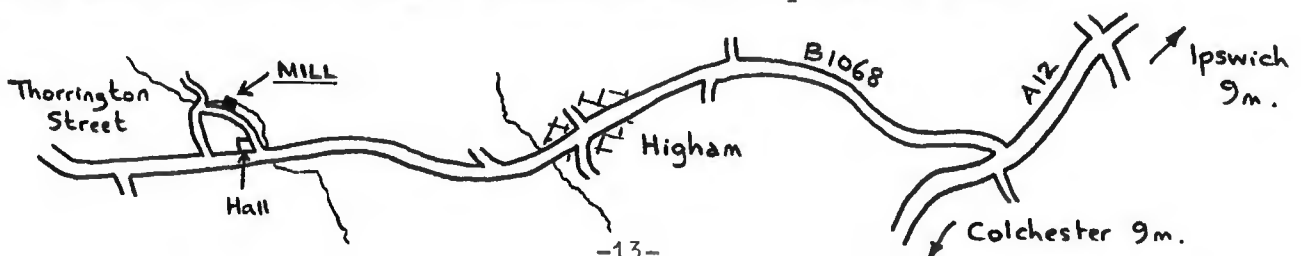
Sometimes people ask us if any Suffolk mills are ever for sale. On learning of mills which have been for sale and sold they say 'If only I had known'. Just a simple question of putting prospective purchasers in touch with the seller, although if you don't live in the area you may miss the advertisement in the local press.

There is nearly always a house with a mill, or land where a new mill house could be built. If you are interested do contact the Secretary or Chairman and we will let you know if there are any mills for sale.

EVENTS

VISIT TO THORRINGTON STREET WATERMILL, STOKE BY NAYLAND; WEDNESDAY JUNE 13th. at 7.15 pm.

Mr. Munson has kindly consented to our visit to this picturesque watermill, still in working order, on the River Box. The mill is fairly easy to find. Turn off the A12 (from Ipswich) onto the B1068 Sudbury Road, go through Higham and just over a mile further on you will come to a little lane on the right beside Thorrington Hall. The mill is 100 yards or so down the lane. Let's hope for one of those warm June evenings when a watermill must be one of the most beautiful places on earth.





Thorrington Street Watermill

(Photo: P. Dolman)

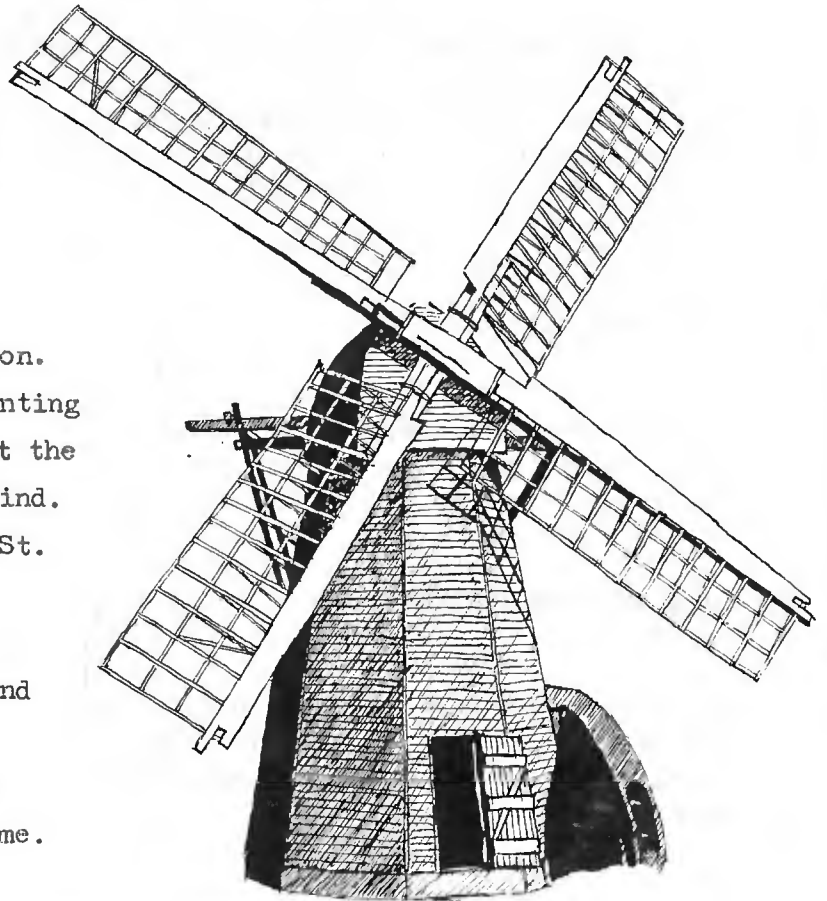
'GRAND OPEN DAY', HERRINGFLEET MARSH MILL; SUNDAY JULY 22nd., from 11 am.

We will be resuming our regular public open days at this fine marsh mill (illustrated opposite) with a 'special' to mark the completion of repairs to the mill bringing it back to working order, and also to celebrate the 50th. anniversary of the S.P.A.B. Wind and Watermill Section.

We hope to decorate the sails with bunting for the occasion, and of course to get the mill pumping if there is sufficient wind. Herringfleet is about one mile above St. Olaves Bridge on the River Waveney.

Important: Please check with the Secretary nearer the date if you intend to come as this visit will have to be postponed in the unlikely event of the repairs not being completed in time.

(Telephone Ipswich 76996)



* VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED! S.M.G. 'WORK IN' AT BARDWELL AND STANTON MILLS; SATURDAY AUGUST 11th. TO SUNDAY AUGUST 19th. 1979 *

We hope to build a new domed cap roof for Bardwell tower mill and repair the buck roof of Stanton post mill.

Bardwell mill (built 1823) although superficially derelict would make an excellent starting point for anyone who wanted to restore a mill. Even if this were never done it is well worth conserving as a tower with machinery. To the mill enthusiast a gutted, house-converted tower with four dummy sails and fan is of little interest, but an old tower which has no sails or fan but which has the internal machinery complete is always fascinating.

Stanton mill is an extremely interesting and complete late eighteenth century post mill with two pairs of stones and their feed system complete in every detail

(see photographs on p.11). They were driven via a wallower and spur wheel on a wooden upright shaft - one of only two such wooden upright shafts to be found in a post mill in the country. There is a massive oak windshaft fitted later with a cast iron cannister. The S.P.A.B. spent £600 on repairs in 1939 (a lot of money then) and it is a tribute to their work that the mill is still in good condition after 40 years of total neglect. It will not stay that way long though as water is getting into the roof structure which will deteriorate rapidly if not checked soon.

If you can spare any time at all during the work period do please let us know so we can plan the work better. If you wish to stay in the area we will endeavour to arrange 'digs' and for the hardy there is plenty of space to camp nearby or to bed down in the mills themselves!

Mill repairs are the most important aspect of our work; do please support us if you can in helping to save these fine mills.

Other Events

Cambridgeshire Wind and Watermill Society - working parties:

Burwell windmill: June 17th.; July 15th. 8 - 12 am.

Histon windmill: June 10th. from 10 am.

Lode watermill: please ring the Secretary (Chris Wilson, Swavesey 30742) for details.

New S.M.G. Members since 1.3.79

AVES, Mr. L.A. (P)
Monks Oak, Bradfield St. George, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk
Tel.: Sicklesmere 532

BETTLES, Karl (J)
81, New Road, Marlow Bottom, Marlow, Bucks.
Tel.: Marlow 2975

(General interest in sites and surveying remains)

DAVIDSON, Mrs. Kathleen (P)
58, Ashtree Road, New Costessey, Norwich, Norfolk

GILBEY, Mr. R.N. (F)
Fieldgate Farm, Ugley Green, Bishops Stortford, Herts.
(Stanton mill)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATER POWER USERS, The (C)
J.M. Hopkinson, TD, MA (Secretary), Arnold, Greenwood & Son, P.O. Box 27, Exchange Chambers, 10 (b), Highgate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4SX
Tel.: Kendal (0539) 20049

(Furthering the use of water power; opposing the Water Resources Act)

SHADBOLT, Mr. R.W. (P)
84, Western Road, Nazeing, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 2QQ

WHITNEY, Mrs. Ann (F)
6, Ipswich Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4BU
Tel.: Woodbridge 3626

(History and preservation of mills)

WHITNEY, Andrew B. (J) - address as above.