

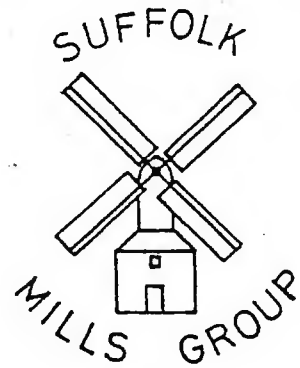
SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

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At this time of the year the 'active' Members of the Group are usually busy organising practical work on mills. This year is no exception, and as I write the final arrangements are being made for our nine day 'work in' (I was tempted to say 'wonder'!) at Bardwell and Stanton between 11th. and 19th. August: materials to be ordered, final measuring to be done, tools, ladders, safety harnesses, etc. to be begged, borrowed or bought, accommodation to be arranged, and so on. May I make a final appeal to Members to help with the work at these mills if they possibly can. If you definitely can't come, perhaps you know a relative or friend who would be useful to us. It is a sad fact that a recent article asking for volunteers which appeared in the local newspaper here in Ipswich, read by tens of thousands of people, produced just one 'volunteer' - and even he wanted payment! Unless we get more support we could be struggling to finish the work (more details on page 11).

No doubt many Members are taking their summer holiday in the next few weeks, or have just returned. If you feel like putting pen to paper and describing your adventures looking at (or for!) mills, especially in foreign climes, I'd be interested to receive articles for possible publication in the Newsletter.

Mark Barnard

MILLS AND LISTED BUILDINGS LAW MARK BARNARD

A 'listed' building is a building of special architectural or historic interest, scheduled by the Secretary of State for the Environment by reference to specific national criteria. In selecting buildings for listing, particular attention is paid (among other things) to those illustrating social and economic history and technical innovation. Mills are therefore good candidates for listing. The buildings are classified in grades, Grade I being reserved for those of exceptional interest. Most buildings are Grade II, but some of particular importance are classified II*. Prior to 1970 there was a Grade III category, but this is no longer used. There are nearly 8,000 listed buildings in Suffolk, of which 58 are mills.

Listing is a continuous process, and the attention of the Secretary of State may be drawn to suitable unlisted candidates, usually via local authorities. Unfortunately in Suffolk, as in many other counties, the lists are now very out of date, except for the main towns and the central south and south-west parts of the county, which have been re-surveyed more recently. In these new surveys (which are continuing, albeit very slowly) many buildings, including mills, formerly Grade III are being up-graded. For example, Thorrington Street watermill, Stoke by Nayland, originally Grade III, is now Grade II, and Wiston watermill, Nayland, also originally Grade III, is now Grade II*.

Sometimes a building in an area which hasn't been re-surveyed will be specifically up-graded or newly listed ('spot listing') if there is some threat of development or if it is sold (for example, Stanton mill became Grade II in 1970, and Layham mill was listed for the first time on 24th. January this year, following an urgent request by the Suffolk Preservation Society to the Department of the Environment just six days previously!).

If an unlisted building is threatened, the local authority can, at its own discretion, serve a Building Preservation Notice on the owner, which protects the building as if it were listed for a period of six months, during which time the Secretary of State will decide whether or not to list the building permanently.

Once a building is listed it is illegal for any person to do anything to damage or demolish it, or to alter or extend it in a way that would affect its character, unless specific listed building consent has been obtained. Thus listed building consent would be required for internal alterations (such as the removal of machinery from a mill) or certain minor works, whereas planning permission (which applies to all buildings) would not. In the context of mills it is also interesting to note that, for a listed building, 'any object or structure fixed to a building or forming part of the land comprised within the curtilage of a building is treated as part of the building' (Section 54 (9) of the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act). Applications for listed building consent are made to local authorities, who have to advertise them (except for applications involving only the interior of Grade II buildings) and take note of any comments received. In the case of proposed demolition, specific national bodies (including the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) must be notified. In deciding listed building applications, authorities are advised to take into account such factors as the intrinsic value of the building, any group value, its value in relation to others of similar type in the locality, its landscape importance, historical interest, architectural merit, condition and cost of repair and maintenance.

If works are carried out without consent, or if conditions are broken, the planning authority can serve an enforcement notice requiring the building to be restored to its former state. This notice can be appealed against (as can a refusal of consent) to the Secretary of State. If the appeal is rejected and the owner doesn't comply, he is liable to a fine; the authority may also do the work itself and recover the cost from the owner. If, following refusal or restriction of listed building consent, the owner considers the building to be 'incapable of reasonably beneficial use', a purchase notice may be served on the local planning authority. However, these notices are rarely successful.

Very often in the case of mills it is not violation of listed building consent or deliberate acts of destruction but gradual demolition by neglect which poses the greatest problem. Local authorities are empowered to execute essential urgent repairs (no more) for the preservation of unoccupied listed buildings, after giving seven days notice to the owner. Any costs incurred can subsequently be recovered from the owner, subject to a right of appeal. A repairs notice can also be served if the authority considers a listed building is not being properly preserved, specifying

the repairs necessary, and pointing out that compulsory purchase may result if the notice is ignored. After a period of two months has elapsed the authority may begin compulsory purchase proceedings, which has to be justified to the Secretary of State. Compensation is restricted if the building has been deliberately allowed to fall into disrepair. Although this procedure may seem fine in theory, in practice these measures are rarely used by local authorities as they are afraid of ending up being obliged to purchase buildings which need large sums of money spent on them. This would inevitably result in criticism from the public as it would have to be financed from the rates. Out of 268 District Councils which responded to an S.P.A.B. survey, only 58 (22%) had served repairs notices since 1974. In Suffolk, in a rare initiative, Babergh District Council served such a notice on the owner of Kersey watermill in 1978. However, before the Council committed itself to this course of action it tried to ensure that an economic use could be found for the mill if compulsory purchase proved necessary, even if such a use only preserved the exterior. In the event the mill was sold to a more sympathetic owner.

At present the degree of protection offered by listing is small, especially if the building is unoccupied (like most mills) and derelict, and the local authority refuses to act. Unless the owner shows an interest there is very little which can be done unless a group of enthusiasts can do essential low-cost holding repairs, which is one of the aims of S.M.G.. However, the amount of work the Group can undertake is tiny when compared with what needs to be done, even if only the very best mills (like the Drinkstone group) are to be kept standing, let alone properly restored.

One thing S.M.G. can do though is to ensure that the listing of mills is brought up-to-date, and reflects the paramount importance of the interior mechanism (that is, the mill itself as opposed to the building), as well as the exterior appearance and history. In this way local authorities will have much better guidance for dealing with planning and listed building applications, and hopefully have clearer priorities for preservation. However, what needs to be stressed is that this must be proper preservation of the interior fittings of the mill and not merely a concern for the external appearance alone. While official government advice to local authorities places a heavy emphasis on finding suitable new uses for old buildings, great care is needed in applying this to mills; almost any new use is bound to compromise the original interior to a greater or lesser extent.

Below I have indicated all the listed mills in the county, under the local authorities responsible for them. It can be seen how out-dated and inaccurate the lists are for most of the county. Although when the new surveys are carried out, all mills containing gear are normally included, omissions do occur - for example, Exning watermill, near Newmarket, was missed. At the other extreme, the base of a tower mill in Haverhill is listed in the mistaken belief that it is all that remains of the town's famous annular-sailed windmill (which in fact was entirely demolished in 1942!).

I have also added a list of Grade III mills, indicating those which will probably be up-graded when the remainder of the county is re-surveyed. A few mills definitely worthy of listing have been missed altogether - Exning has already been mentioned. Others

include Nedging watermill, Cavenham watermill, Great Welnetham tower mill, Euston watermill and Hawke's Mill, Needham Market. Finally, at least six mills which are not listed buildings nevertheless receive the same protection from demolition by being located within a Conservation Area. Alterations to them also have to be advertised. These are: Exning, Mildenhall (Lark roller mills), Barnham, Euston, Nayland (Mill Street) and Hawke's Mill, Needham Market.

'Listed' Mills in Suffolk

BABERGH D.C.

Bures St. Mary	II	Watermill
East Bergholt (Flatford Mill)	I	Watermill
Hadleigh (Aldham Mill)	II	Watermill
Holbrook	II	Watermill (listed March 1969)
Kersey	II*	Watermill (up-graded 1973 - group value)
Layham	II	Watermill (listed January 1979)
Monk's Eleigh (Cobbold's Mill)	II	Watermill
Nayland (Wiston Mill)	II*	Watermill
Polstead	II	Watermill
Raydon	II	Watermill (listed October 1975)
Stoke by Nayland (Thorrington St.)	II	Watermill
Stutton (Alton Mill)	II	Watermill (now removed to Abbot's Hall Museum, Stowmarket)
Sudbury (Brunden Mill)	II	Watermill
Sudbury (Highfield Mill)	II	Base of smock mill
Sudbury (Sudbury Flour Mills)	II	Watermill

FOREST HEATH D.C.

Barton Mills	II	Watermill & house (group value). Mill now gone.
Dalham	I	Smock mill
Freckenham	II	Smock mill (now entirely demolished)

IPSWICH B.C. - no mills

MID SUFFOLK D.C.

Badley	II	Watermill
Baylham	II	Watermill
Buxhall	II	Tower mill (up-graded May 1976)
Drinkstone	II	Post mill, smock mill & mill house (group)
Eye	II	Remains of post mill (listed as such)
Hoxne	II	Watermill
Mendham	II	Watermill
Needham Market (Coddendam Rd. Mill)	II	Watermill
Pettaugh	II	Post mill (now entirely demolished)
Syleham	II	Post mill
Woolpit	II	Post mill (now entirely demolished)

ST. EDMUNDSBURY B.C.

Clare	II	Watermill
Great Thurlow	II*	Smock mill
Haverhill	II	Base of tower mill
Ixworth	II	Watermill
Kedington	II	Watermill
Pakenham	II*	Tower mill
Pakenham	II	Watermill
Stanton	II	Post mill
Wixoe	II	Watermill

SUFFOLK COASTAL D.C.

Aldringham (Thorpeness Mill)	II	Post mill
Campsea Ashe	II*	Watermill
Framlingham (Ivy Cottage)	II	Base of old smock mill

Friston	II	Post mill
Letheringham	II	Watermill
Orford (at Orford Lodge Farm)	II	Drainage tower mill (listed in 1956 after restoration; now only a stump)
Saxtead (Saxtead Green)	I	Post mill. Also designated an Ancient Monument, therefore under the direct control of the Secretary of State.
Shottisham	II	Watermill
Ufford	II	Watermill
Walberswick	II	Drainage tower mill
Westleton	II	Post mill (now entirely demolished)
Wickham Market	II	Watermill
Woodbridge (Tide Mill)	I	Tide mill
Woodbridge (Buttrum's Mill)	II	Tower mill
Woodbridge (Tricker's Mill)	II	Tower mill

WAVENEY D.C.

Bungay	II	Tower mill
Herringfleet	II*	Drainage smock mill
Holton St. Peter	II*	Post mill (up-graded 1971)
Wrentham	II	Post mill (now entirely demolished)
Wrentham	II	Tower mill (now entirely demolished)

Mills listed Grade III (those underlined would probably be up-graded according to current criteria; mills which have been entirely demolished are excluded)

BABERGH D.C.

<u>Shimpling</u> (smock base)
<u>Sproughton</u> (watermill)
<u>Stanstead</u> (roundhouse)
<u>Stoke by Nayland</u> (Withermarsh Green) (roundhouse)

FOREST HEATH D.C.

<u>Gazeley</u> (tower mill)

MID SUFFOLK D.C.

<u>Crowfield</u> (smock mill)
<u>Debenham</u> (tower mill, now a stump)
<u>Framsden</u> (post mill)
<u>Rattlesden</u> (tower mill)
<u>Wetheringsett</u> (post mill, now a roundhouse)
<u>Weybread (Needham Mill)</u> (watermill)

ST. EDMUNDSBURY B.C.

<u>Bardwell</u> (tower mill)
<u>Bardwell</u> (watermill)
<u>Barnham</u> (tower mill)
<u>Chevington</u> (roundhouse)
<u>Clare (Chilton Street)</u> (tower mill)
<u>Sapiston</u> (watermill)
<u>Thelnetham</u> (tower mill)

SUFFOLK COASTAL D.C.

<u>Aldeburgh</u> (tower mill)
<u>Burgh</u> (tower mill)
<u>Kelsale</u> (tower mill)
<u>Little Glemham</u> (watermill)
<u>Peasenhall</u> (post mill, now a roundhouse)
<u>Swilland</u> (post mill, now a roundhouse)
<u>Wenhaston</u> (watermill)
<u>Wenhaston</u> (post mill, now a roundhouse)

WAVENEY D.C.

<u>Blundeston</u> (tower mill)
<u>Homersfield (Wortwell Mill)</u> (watermill)
<u>Lound</u> (tower mill)
<u>Westhall</u> (post mill, now a roundhouse)

MILL QUERIES DON PATERSON

1. WILTSHIRE

John Aubrey, writing between 1686 and 1691 ('The Natural of Wiltshire'¹), notes in a chapter on stones that "The millers in our county use to putt a black pebble under the pinne of ye axis of the mill wheel, to keep the brasse underneath from wearing; and they doe find by experience that nothing doth weare so long as that. The bakers take a

certain pebble, which they putt in the vulture of their oven, which they call the warning stone: for when it is white the oven is hot."

Does any reader know of similar uses in other counties?

1 = Britton, John : 'The Natural History of Wiltshire', by John Aubrey, F.R.S. (written between 1656 and 1691). Edited and elucidated by notes by John Britton, F.S.A., etc.. Published by the Wiltshire Topographical Society (London: printed by J.B. Nichols), 1847.

2. DEVON & ESSEX

'Huxham's & Brown, Exeter' - I have come across the nameplate in the eye rim of a French burr stone at Stansted, Essex. On the plaster underside of the bedstone is written in pencil 'Stansted Aug 31 / 92' and some initials (of the millwright who installed the stones?) which I could not decipher.

Devon Record Office tell me the firm appears in the earliest Devon directory they hold of 1844, and in all subsequent ones up to 1923. It does not appear in the next they possess of 1930.

In 1844 they are given as engineers and iron founders, but in 1850 as millwrights as well. An advertisement in Billings 1857 directory describes them as 'iron-founders and millwrights, Commercial Road, Near the Quay, Exeter' and lists steam engines, millstones and French burrs, Malt Mills, Emigrants Flour Mills, Castings in general, Flour Mills and Machinery, etc., among their products. In 1870 they are described as 'French Millstone Builders' amongst other things, but in 1878 they are merely 'engineers and iron founders' again. From 1889 'tanners engineers'. The address remains the same throughout the period, but there is a slight variation in the form of the name which could imply a change in members of the families engaged in the business - i.e. pre-1878 'Huxham's & Brown'; 1878 'Huxham & Brown'; 1889 'Huxham & Browns'.

It seems odd that a pair of stones from Devon should be installed in an Essex windmill. The pair is fairly 'new' and are 4 ft. in diameter. One of the other two pairs of stones at Stansted mill has 'Hughes & Sons, London' nameplate in the eye and pencil markings on the bedstone indicate 'Stansted Sept 12 / 91' in a similar hand to the Exeter stones. I suppose that the London firm of Hughes & Sons which dominated the southern market bought up stock from Huxham & Brown, who appear (on the evidence available to me) to have given up millwrighting after 1878. Professor Minchinton in his recent publication on Devon windmills does not mention the firm.

Perhaps some reader could fill in information or throw some light on the firm or locate any descendents of the Huxham and Brown families who may still hold records of interest.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

'WINDMILLS IN KENT' by B.J. and J.M. Turpin. Published by (and obtainable from) Windmill Publications, Watling Lane, Thaxted, Essex; 1979. Price 95p. (allow extra for postage and packing)

This is a very attractive pocket guide to the windmills of Kent, similar in layout to 'Windmills in Essex' by the same authors (reviewed in Newsletter 5). The 28 pages include a brief but good introduction, general information on 29 mills (including

details of access), a glossary of mill terms and a sectional drawing of a typical Kentish smock mill. There is also a good map and 42 photographs which have reproduced very well on the glossy paper. The only criticism I have is that mills such as Chislet, Charing and Stanford have been relegated to the 'Odds and Ends' section, whereas the Oare house conversion somehow finds its way into the main list. It would probably have been better to have kept to a single list of mills.

This guide is, however, one of the best of the recent spate of county windmill booklets, and the pleasing layout and quality of production should ensure its success.

Other Publications

Mike Organ has arranged for a set of four postcards of Ramsey mill to be printed. These show the mill in its working days (two views) and before and after the recent repair work. They are available from Mike at The Windmill House, Ramsey, Harwich CO12 5HW, price 7p. each or 25p. the set, plus postage. Also available is the Ramsey mill guide, price 10p. plus postage.

Members will be pleased to hear that Brian Flint's long-awaited survey of Suffolk windmills will be published in September by the Boydell Press. It's entitled 'The Suffolk Windmill' and will cost £15.

A PHILOSOPHY FOR PRESERVATIONISTS DAVID H. JONES

Industrial archaeology presumably means the study of industrial remains, but the term is often used to cover the preservation of such remains. It is hardly surprising that enthusiasm encouraged by studying a site or a machine often leads to advocating its retention and display, and sometimes its restoration and operation. There has already been quite a lot of this expensive activity, but although it has resulted in a number of successful preservation schemes, there has been much less effort directed towards achieving the best overall result.

Now that there is public and official recognition that the preservation of industrial relics can be worthwhile, the question of how such projects should be chosen is more urgent. Such questions often lead to discussions of organisations, either existing or proposed, but I suggest it would be more useful to discuss the basic philosophy of preservation. If such a philosophy could gain wide acceptance, it could improve the quality of preservation with little change in formal organisation, purely by its influence on the thinking of those instigating or supporting individual projects, while bodies - existing or arising - concerned with overall planning would operate more effectively if their aims were based on it.

The first question in forming this philosophy is; why preserve? The obvious answer is 'to illustrate history', but this is not the only answer possible. Nor is it the only answer actually motivating some preservation scheme supporters. For example; is a preserved railway running because it illustrates history, because it provides public transport, provides public amusement, attracts tourists to a district, or allows preservation society members to 'play' trains? Probably all these reasons are operating somewhere in most such enterprises. Railway preservation societies resent any accusation that they are merely playing trains because as societies they have more serious aims,

but they are likely to have at least a handful of active and valuable members whose motivation amounts to that. Attracting tourists to a district (to benefit the district in other ways) is unlikely to interest a preservation society greatly, but local authorities are likely to be very interested. Since such a project can be greatly helped by local authority support, and needs at least its goodwill, considerations of tourism are likely to have some influence on the project's success regardless of the aims of its supporters.

Any other type of preservation can similarly be urged for a variety of reasons - historical, aesthetic, amenity, etc., - but to form part of industrial archaeology, only the historical reasons are valid. This leads to the central concern of our preservation philosophy; ensuring that we do not present false history by retaining things which are badly chosen or inaccurately restored.

Watermills as an Example of the Problems of Choice

Watermills provide a good self-contained example of this problem. They were very numerous and widely distributed, and a considerable number still exist. Many have only recently gone out of use, but few are now working, and hardly any still work on a genuinely commercial basis. The vast majority were built to traditional designs, which evolved slowly over centuries, but this only governed the outline of the design; they were individually built and no two are exactly alike. They also show strong regional variation. Most mills are anonymous, in that neither builder nor designer are known, and only a few of the later improvements can be attributed to known inventors.

Much of this applies not only to corn mills, but also to most of the watermills used for other trades, except for the number of survivors. Corn mills always formed the majority, and generally remained in operation longer, while the great variety of trades using the 'industrial' watermills meant that the number of each type was never very large. Therefore, unlike corn mills, many types are now rare or non-existent.

All kinds of watermill are now rapidly disappearing, and after another two decades or so, scarcely any will remain apart from those deliberately preserved. A number of watermills have already been preserved, and they readily attract visitors, but they have been chosen for individual reasons, with no consideration at all for the overall result. If the total collection of preserved mills is to present an accurate historical picture, it should include representatives of all applications, all regional types, and all stages of historical development (so far as the surviving examples allow). This implies the preservation of a number of mills, which raises the question: how many can we preserve?

It depends in the end on the strength of public interest in the subject, and at present this seems sufficient to support a number more than adequate for historical illustration. It is strong enough to ensure that we can expect still more mills will be preserved by local initiative.

If this continues, the final result may be false in two ways. One is unbalance; many similar mills might be kept while other types disappear unrepresented. The other

threat is the unique mill. A few mills depart wildly from tradition in some way, either from the whim of the owner or builder, or as a result of alterations. Such things deserve recording, but they have no historical significance. Unfortunately they attract attention and are likely to be proposed for preservation, but if a substantial number were to be preserved, visiting mills would give a quite false impression of what a watermill was like. We might as well read the more bizarre feats recorded in the Guinness Book of Records as a study of modern popular sports!

An accurate illustration demands that we preserve the typical, but this still contains variety, as each application, each period, and each region with a distinctive practice should be represented. We should therefore identify the various 'types', and attempt to ensure that each is represented among the mills chosen for preservation. But this implies that we know the historical development and regional variation. For some subjects, such as railways, this presents no problem, as their history was studied intensively long before there was any need for preservation, but this knowledge does not always exist. In the case of watermills, this knowledge is incomplete, but sufficient to guide action in certain areas of Britain.¹

Satisfying the Customer

When we have made our historical illustration by preserving something, who will look at it? They fall into three main categories; the general visitor, the schools, and the specialists. We should cater for all of them, although their needs are different.

The general visitors wish to be informed or entertained, which in practice amount to the same thing. They come to be informed because they find it interesting; that is to say, they enjoy it, and are thereby entertained. The entertainment is a serious kind; seeing and learning about past industrial plant and methods. They will need help with interpretation, but few will follow it in any great depth. Most of them will accept what they are shown uncritically, and not complain of a poorly-chosen example, but as experts it would be dishonest to present them with what we know to be unrepresentative. If as in the case of watermills, representative preservation means carefully-chosen examples scattered all over the country, most of the general visitors will not appreciate it. They will not travel around visiting every such site and making comparisons.

The needs of the schools are broadly similar. Much of the interpretation should be in the classroom, and teachers should expect a high standard of historical accuracy in restoration and in any interpretative material they are given, but as a class will normally only visit one mill, they will not be concerned with a representative collection either.

It has been suggested² that the specialist has no need of preserved examples because he can understand pictorial and written records, but I strongly disagree with this view. For the specialist, a concrete example is both illustration and evidence. He needs it for two reasons.

The first is the limitations of recording. No matter how carefully a site or a machine may be recorded, the resulting record will be incomplete. A record which is indisputably complete must be capable of answering any question which could be answered by examining the actual object. A moments reflection should show anyone who has ever

made a field survey that this is never achieved. We can only record those features we consider important. This is not to say that our judgement is worthless; much detail we ignore as trivial will be considered trivial by our successors, but we must not assume our choice to be perfect. We can only judge what is interesting to our own age; a future one, even the next generation, will see it differently.

The second reason is; even the specialist can understand more if he has a few concrete examples to supplement even the best records. History is a matter of interpreting past events, and a large part of this consists of asking the right questions. This can make great demands on the imagination; such demands that the historian needs all the help he can find. To see a machine, to handle it, be impressed by its size, to operate it, run tests on it - these things can provoke questions much more readily than drawings and descriptions.

With these aims, the specialist is likely to visit most if not all preserved examples, and deserves both the best selection and the most accurate restoration we can provide, together with full records of work done and the reasons those particular examples were chosen.

Despite the value of such evidence, it cannot replace recording. We can only preserve a few examples of anything in the field, but if we were energetic enough we might preserve them all - on paper! Preserved examples must always be placed in their context, so preservation without recording is always weakened, maybe so much as to make it quite worthless.

Although these categories of visitor have different needs, they will rarely be in conflict. The specialists' requirements are more demanding, and therefore should be our first concern, but if we satisfy them we will generally have satisfied the needs of all visitors. At least, we will have done so provided access is not too difficult and the number of visitors remains moderate. Where we have these problems, there will be pressure to make alterations to cater for visitors. This may have to be resisted, at least to keep change to the minimum, in the interest of historical evidence.

Practical Application

Consideration of the questions raised so far could help those initiating a project to clarify their aims, and assess the value of their scheme, which for some types of industrial monument is all that is needed. Unlike watermills, they do not present the same problem of building a 'typical picture' by selection from a varied population. Examples might be historic 'firsts', or rare survivors which leave us with no real choice. Such things can be judged on their own merits, with no need for elaborate comparisons.

Where choice does require comparison, and selection from large numbers, keeping principles in mind is not enough; it demands a plan and an organisation. This leads to further questions which will need consideration in the future.

- 1 Jones, David; 'The Water-Powered Corn Mills of England, Wales and the Isle of Man'; in Transactions of the Second International Conference on Molinology; Lyngby, Denmark; 1969.
- 2 Atkinson, F.; 'Preservation of Seaham Harbour Coal Drop ...'; in Transactions of First Int. Conf. on Conservation of Industrial Monuments; Ironbridge; 1973.

NEWS

PROGRESS AT ABBOT'S HALL MUSEUM, STOWMARKET

The re-erection of Minsmere windpump is now well under way; the footings and pump chamber are in, and at the time of writing the smock has just been erected (see photographs on page 12). By the time you read this the machinery will have been installed and the cap lifted on; the mill may even have sails on! Everything is ready, pre-fabricated, and the work of assembly is literally making this windmill appear overnight. The workmanship is very good and Clive Marshall and his merry men are to be congratulated on a fine example of modern millwrighting, proving that such skills are not being lost as is thought by several of the 'old timers'.

Our Committee member, Des Codd, who lives nearby is recording day to day progress with his camera and it is hoped that the museum will take advantage of our Group's fund of records of this mill by producing a booklet and perhaps a permanent record of the rebuild by an exhibition at the museum. The mill will probably be open by September.

Meanwhile, the digging of a new mill pond for the re-erected Alton watermill is proceeding slowly. Ken Piper, the Jameson Marshall Ltd. foreman on the windpump nearby, tells me that the 'Job Creation' men, who are being paid £64 a week by the Department of Employment, spend most of their time sunbathing and not doing a stroke of work! Nevertheless, the museum is aiming for the pond to be ready by mid September, when a grand country fair is taking place (organised by S.M.G. Member David Burch). I just hope they get a move on!

P.D.

DALHAM MILL RESTORATION

If you're wondering why no reports on progress have appeared on this mill in recent Newsletters, it's because there hasn't been much progress! The contract suffered a setback when the millwrights had an acute 'cash flow crisis' - they ran out of money to pay for work in progress, largely through the ridiculous taxation laws imposed these days to overcome the 'lump' (tax fiddling builders). This has caused hardship to many small builders and specialists like millwrights.

Anyway, a friendly bank enabled work to re-start a couple of months ago and the new curb will shortly be fitted and the mill tower finished off.

While the contractors were away raising capital, it was discovered that the smock was slightly out of alignment. The possible implications of this have yet to be sorted out, although it is the County Council's view that the distortion is of only minor significance and need not affect the working or the appearance of the mill.

The County Council will be pleased to see the project completed for it has dragged on since 1974, and has been beset with problems all the way, such as the inevitable personality clashes when so many people are concerned with a project. The original millwrights (Thompsons of Alford) abandoned the project in 1976 after only a week of work, for the most ridiculous of reasons; this was a real slap in the face for the Council and has certainly meant that this firm is unlikely to receive any more mill work from the County Council in the near future.

P.D.

S.M.G. WORK ON DRINKSTONE MILLS

Since the last Newsletter we have nailed down all the loose boarding on the roof of



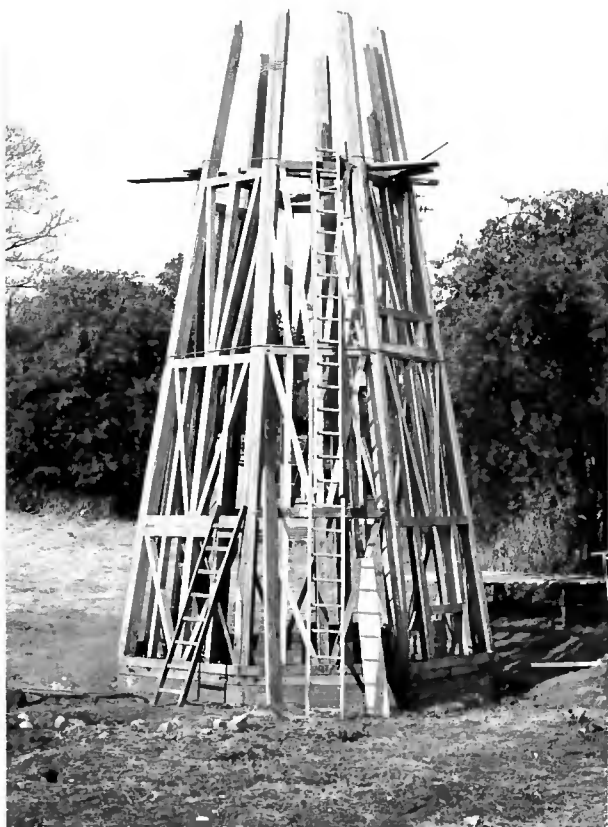
RE-ERECTION OF EAST BRIDGE MILL AT
ABBOT'S HALL MUSEUM, STOWMARKET

Above & Below, left: Three views taken
on July 28th. Note machinery, curb and
fantail on ground (above, left) and new
drainage culvert to River Rat (above,
right).

(Photos.: Mark Barnard)

Below, right: STANTON MILL - the side of
the buck roof which we intend to re-clad
with metal sheeting.

(Photo: Mark Barnard)



the post mill and replaced a weatherboard which had blown off. The roof of the smock mill has also been attended to, in this case sealing the joints of the boarding on the cap which we repaired last autumn. Some patching work on the smock tower has also been carried out; this will continue as time and labour permit.

MILLS FOR SALE

The picturesque Clare watermill has recently come onto the market. Unfortunately I can't really recommend it to Members, as no machinery survives, and the asking price, together with the large Mill House and about 2.5 acres of gardens, is - wait for it - £110,000.

To Millers and Capitalists

To be sold by Private Contract.

All that Capital, well-built and substantial Brick TOWER WINDMILL, with Patent Sails, Winding Tackle, 2 pairs French Stones and a third pair fitted up for steam power, Sack Tackle, & c., with all the Going Gears complete; situate in the parish of Thelnetham in the County of Suffolk.

The Mill is well-winded and is 160 years old. The asking price is reasonably low on account of the mill having been disused for some time and now being in a derelict condition. Grant aid is available for repairs.

There is an excellent paddock and smallholding amounting to 1.07 acres in all, on which is situate a caravan (included in the sale); electricity is near at hand and there is a well on the property.

The mill is conveniently situated for the established market towns of Thetford and Diss, and has considerable potential for the profitable employment of capital.

For further particulars, contact Mr. P. Dolman, Secretary, Suffolk Mills Group, Ipswich.

EVENTS

S.M.G. 'WORK-IN': SATURDAY AUGUST 11th. TO SUNDAY AUGUST 19th. 1979 AT BARDWELL AND STANTON MILLS

This is our major 'event' for the year, so support it by coming along to help if you possibly can. You probably read in the last Newsletter that we plan to renew the iron sheeting on one side of the roof of Stanton post mill and, the major job, to build a complete new metal-clad domed roof for Bardwell tower mill. The Mills Group have secured a grant of £100 for each of these projects from St. Edmundsbury Borough Council. At present things are going well to plan - we've fabricated the sixteen cap ribs for Bardwell, and a scaffolding platform has started to appear at Stanton in the last few days. Please contact the Secretary (or Chris Hullcoop, on Ipswich 76911) if you can join us. The successful completion of this work would reflect very well on our Group as well as helping to ensure the survival of these two windmills.

HERRINGFLEET OPEN DAY: SUNDAY AUGUST 26th. 1979 from 11a.m.

As feared, the 'Grand Re-opening' of this mill, planned for July 22nd., had to be called off. The extent of repairs to the mill expanded to such a degree that most of the tower is being replaced. However, it is expected to be ready for our next open day, planned for August 26th. (Bank Holiday Sunday). As before, please 'phone the Secretary on Ipswich 76966 if you are planning to come, just in case. If necessary, an alternative event will be arranged at short notice.

S.P.A.B. WIND & WATERMILL SECTION: LINCOLNSHIRE MILL TOUR; 6th.- 9th. SEPTEMBER 1979

This tour, for S.P.A.B. Members, relatives and friends, is centered on Lindsey College of Agriculture, at Riseholm, three miles north of Lincoln. The three coach trips will visit watermills at Ellis, Tealby Thorpe, Binbrook, Alvingham and Kirkby Green, and windmills at Alford, Heckington, Boston, Sibsey, Burgh le Marsh, Wrawby, Hibaldstow and Kirton Lindsey. The cost is £42, excluding travel to and from Lincoln. Train fare from London £12 return. For further details please contact the S.P.A.B. office (telephone 01-405-2646).

Other Events

The Cambridgeshire Wind and Watermill Society will be holding its A.G.M. on 12th. August, at Great Shelford. For further details contact the Secretary, Graham Wilson at The Mill, Over, Cambridgeshire (tel.: Swavesey 30742).

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New S.M.G. Members since Newsletter No. 10

BALL, L.E. (F)
41, Morley Road, Basingstoke, Hants. RG21 3LH

CARPENTER, Patrick (F)
11, Tea Kettle Lane, Stetchworth, Newmarket, Suffolk
Tel.: Stetchworth 440 (home); Thetford 810485 or Huntingdon 73379 (work)

CARPENTER, Mrs. Anita (F)
as above

COLLINSON, H. Norman (F)
Broadacres, Shotley Road, Chelmondiston, Ipswich
Tel.: Woolverstone 565

COOKSON, Mrs. M. (F)
13, Littlestead Close, Caversham Park Village, Reading RG4 0UA
Tel.: Reading 478284

(Collecting old pictures of mills; visiting sites)

WEBBER, Miss P.J. (F)
73, Caldecott Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk
Tel.: Lowestoft 61597

Mervyn Holden has moved to 112, Quinton Road, Needham Market, Ipswich IP6 8JQ

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