

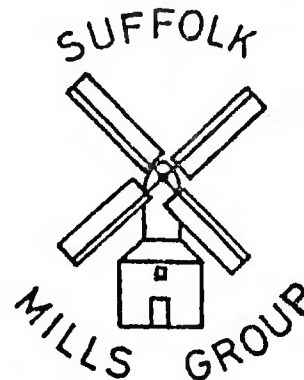
SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter Number 19

MARCH 1981

SECRETARY: Peter Dolman
95, Bixley Road,
Ipswich

EDITOR: Mark Barnard,
41, Melbourne Road,
Ipswich



With Spring just around the corner we can look forward to better weather and the usual S.M.G. programme of visits and repair work to mills. This Newsletter contains details of all our events until July (including the A.G.M.), together with the dates of the 'work-in' at Thelnetham mill. Please make sure you put all these dates in your diary, as we can't remind you of them!

The highlight of the winter was our public meeting at Ipswich Town Hall on February 21st., when we showed a number of mill films. This, together with our window display at Williams and Glynn's bank, has helped to recruit a few new Members. On the millwrighting side, progress has been made both at Pakenham watermill and Thelnetham mill throughout the winter months, and plans are well in hand for the major part of this year's work at Thelnetham (see inside).

Finally may I thank those of you who answered my plea and sent in contributions for the Newsletter; needless to say, I would be delighted to receive further material to use in future issues. Please note that the second part of 'Power from the Wind' by David Pearce and Peter Dolman will now be published in the next Newsletter which you'll receive at the beginning of July.

Mark Barnard

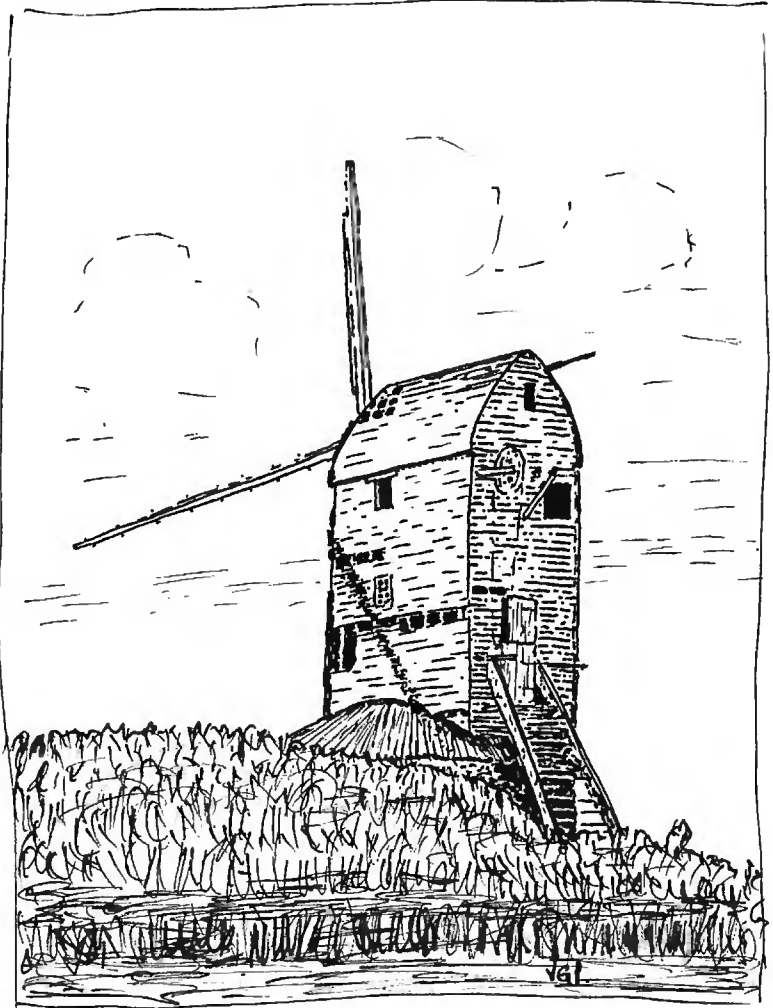
THORNHAM MAGNA MILL VINCENT PARGETER

I remember this mill particularly as it was the first Suffolk post mill that I ever saw and gained entry to. My first sighting was in 1952 when travelling by car to the Norfolk Broads with my parents. The mill was a prominent landmark from the A140, being about a quarter of a mile from the road across flat fields criss-crossed with hedgerows and dotted with occasional trees. The mill had been left pointing north and had been partly dismantled, presumably when she stopped working during the war. The frames of the sails - one pair patent and one pair cloth - had been sawn off close to the whips, and the fly had been removed.

Holidays on the Broads became a regular occurrence, so we passed this mill each year and were able to watch its slow deterioration. In 1958 we stopped for sandwiches and later walked over to the mill. Weatherboarding was now starting to come off, and the fly frame had collapsed backwards into the brambles, the flystrings having rotted through and snapped. The steps were more or less intact, and the door of the buck was invitingly open.

After negotiating the rotten treads and entering, I noticed that the floor was boarded with wide planks of elm or oak unlike the tongued and grooved boarding always found in my native Kent. The floors were well lit by the large sash windows,

and also many gaping holes where boards had been lost. In the breast was a bin to receive meal from the stones, and I noticed a broken cast-iron bevel pinion used as a weight on the steelyard of the right hand pair of stones. The post was encased in a lattice work of wrought iron strips and bands giving reinforcement. Going upstairs I saw the two pairs of stones in the head, over-driven, complete with tuns and hoppers, but in some disarray. In the tail, a bin had been filled with new bricks, still in their straw packing. It would be interesting to know whether these were put in to compensate for the lack of stored grain when the mill was abandoned, or whether they were necessary when the mill was still at work.



Thornham Magna post mill in the late 1950's

Despite this the mill was headsick. Ascending to the bin floor I noticed a crank which must have driven a jog-scry and the wooden bins for the stones. The windshaft was wooden, very green due to the many leaks in the roof, and carried a wooden brakewheel. Most of the head gable was denuded of boards, and the weather beam was showing signs of decay.

On regaining the ground I noticed a sack loading door in the red brick round-house slightly lower than the first floor, with a ramp for the sacks. The windows were louvred, and the roof was of tapered boards radial to the post, with battens covering the joints. Sadly it was time to go, and Dad was blowing the horn of our Wolseley 4/50 anxious to reach the boatyard by 4 p.m..

The mill was in quite good condition and I looked forward to another visit the following year when I had my own camera. Unfortunately this was not to be, and we searched in vain for the old derelict. Later I learned that she had been burned down by inmates from a local approved school. I also learned her correct name. We always thought of her as Yaxley mill - Yaxley being the next village on the main road. During the war, the road signs were taken down to confuse the Germans and were very slow to re-appear, causing confusion to molinologists.

I feel sorry for young mill enthusiasts today, who will not have the

opportunity, as I did, to see mills such as Thornham Magna untouched by restorers since they last worked. It is up to those who restore mills to do their work skilfully so that none of this character is lost, and the mills are passed intact to the following generations.

LETTERS

The subject of Hampshire windmills seems to have generated more than its fair share of discussion, at least within the S.M.G. Newsletter (see No. 6 pp.8-9; No. 9 p.10; No. 16 pp.8-9). Here are two more letters on this theme.

Russell Jones, of 34, Fairfield Green, Four Marks, Alton, Hants. writes:

"In his article entitled 'The Hunt for Hampshire's Windmills' (Newsletter 16), Peter Jennings asks for any corrections or additions to his list of Hampshire and Isle of Wight windmills.

Firstly, Bursledon mill is not yet restored, restoration only began in about June 1979 and there is a lot to be done. Denmead mill was definitely a tower mill; I have two photocopied pictures of it dated c.1904 and c.1905. The caption under one of the pictures says that after its demolition some of its oak beams were incorporated into a house. If the mill was burnt, surely these would have been destroyed.

Some other Hampshire mills that were standing this century are Bramdean (?), which was standing in c.1938; Chawton (T), which was standing in 1934; Hambledon (T) (not the mill that stood on Windmill Hill), the shell of which remained in 1959; Ouslebury (T), which was standing in 1929; Ouslebury (T windpump), shell remained in 1959; Stubbington (T), which was demolished in the 1920's.

I have other information about these mills, and photocopied pictures of some of them."

Peter Jennings, of 26, Rowan Close, St. Albans, Herts. writes:

"Since compiling my list of Hampshire windmills (Newsletter 16), Mildred Cookson and Michael Roots of the East Kent Mills Group have told me about three other tower mills, known from photographs and presumably now gone. Information from anyone able to visit the sites would of course be very welcome.

They are:

CATHERINGTON, photographed about 1920, derelict with ogee cap and two sails, fan stage but no fantail, boarded up windows.

HAMBLEDON, also about 1920, a ruined, cracked tower with no doors or windows.

LONG BUCKLEY, illustrated on page 318 of Bennett and Elton's 'Watermills and Windmills' as a boarded up tower with remains of cap, one common sail and two other stocks."

Note from Peter Dolman:

"The picture of 'Long Buckley' mill in Bennett and Elton is in fact of the stone tower mill at East Haddon, near Long Buckby, Northants.. It would seem that someone's handwriting was misread when B & E went to print! This mill had gone out of use in the mid nineteenth century and stood derelict for years, finally being pulled down (I believe) in the 1950's or 1960's. The foundations can be seen

in the garden of the mill house, which is just off the main A428 near the turn-off to Long Buckby (Grid Ref.:656686)."

S.M.G. PUBLIC MEETING

Our third annual public meeting, 'An Evening of Mill Films', was held at Ipswich Town Hall on February 21st. and was a great success with about 110 people packing the room.

After a welcoming speech by Chris Hullcoop, ending with some slides of our work at Minsmere (dismantling the remains of the Wallis-Titt wind engine) and Syleham (first aid work to the post mill), we showed a short 8mm. film of Pakenham watermill at work which was made by Viv Codd during the S.M.G. open day late last year. The next item on the programme was a selection of material from the East Anglian Film Archive, housed at the University of East Anglia. This was introduced by Bob Malster, with a commentary from David Cleveland who compiled the sequence, and included film of Woodbridge tide mill at work, Peasenhall post mill working, Horstead watermill in Norfolk, the Castle Roller Mills at Beccles, Pakenham windmill and some short 'leftover' clips from the B.B.C.'s windmill film 'A Couris Thing' which was made in the mid 1960's. The idea of an archive where local historic film can be copied and preserved is an excellent one, especially as old film can easily deteriorate due to its unstable base or simply be thrown out through ignorance of its interest and value to others. Even very recent film can show scenes which can never be taken again (such as Wilfred Clover working Drinkstone post mill in 'A Couris Thing') and which will become the archives of tomorrow.

After a half-hour interval for refreshments and the draw for the crossword prize (see 'News'), Mark Barnard showed some slides of the repairs to Thelnetham tower mill carried out during the summer. Still on the subject of Thelnetham, we showed Viv Codd's excellent film of the lift-off by crane of the cap and the windshaft, which captured the spirit and atmosphere of the occasion far better than any still pictures. The meeting concluded with two contrasting windmill films, 'And Now They Rest' and 'Turn to the Wind'. The first of these was made in the late 1930's at a time when mills were rapidly falling out of use and hardly any were properly preserved, and the voice of Carleton Hobbs struck a rather pessimistic note. However, there were some fine views of several mills at work - Herringfleet, Cranbrook, Sibsey, Heckington, Ramsey, Woolpit and Cross in Hand springing to mind. 'Turn to the Wind' was made in the mid 1970's by Alan Willmott (who kindly came along to project for us) with a commentary by the actor Peter Barkworth. This film shows just how much things have changed in 40 years, with virtually no windmills now working commercially but a growing number preserved by both national and local bodies. Some of the film for 'Turn to the Wind' was taken during S.P.A.B. tours (Meopham, Cranbrook, Billingford), while there are excellent shots too of Herringfleet and North Leverton at work.

Luckily the evening was almost free of technical (i.e. projector) hitches, and during the one short pause Chris Hullcoop was able to entertain the audience in his own inimitable style! We extend our special thanks to David Cleveland, John Osborne, Alan Willmott and Viv Codd for operating the projectors; Bob Malster, Peter Dolman and Mark Barnard for booking and publicity arrangements (plus all those who helped with the distribution of the posters); Chris Hullcoop for baking the excellent 'stone ground' biscuits and to Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Flint, John Snowdon and Mark Barnard for organising the liquid refreshments. Any ideas for next year's meeting?

RED LETTER DAY JOHN SPENCER

I'm sure that all we mill enthusiasts have had, at some time or other, what could only be described as a red letter day, a day when everything went perfectly, and which will always stand out in our memories. I was blessed with such a day exactly one week after the S.P.A.B. tour of Leicestershire mills in June 1978, the highlight of which was a visit to the working watermill at Maxey, near Market Deeping.

At this time I had been a serious enthusiast for about one year only, my interest hitherto having laid somewhat dormant. The revival of my enthusiasm coincided with the aquisition of a new 35mm. camera, and a car. Driving was a novelty to me, and still is, as I only learnt in 1977.

So what made Saturday 17th. June 1978 so special? It was the day I first witnessed a windmill, nay, two windmills at work! (It should be added that another main interest of mine is railways and on my car tours I often combine mills and railways. It would be out of place to mention my visit that day to the two stations at Newark and at Gainsborough, and the delightful little country station of Kirton Lindsey, and an invitation to go inside the tall signal box at Kirton Lime sidings.)

Having discovered that there was little to see where South Leverton mill used to stand, I made my way to North Leverton. A good wind was blowing and the sails started to turn shortly after my arrival. I was met by a young and energetic assistant who gave me a friendly welcome and immediately enlisted my help in setting the weights on the mill's striking chain. The assistant was a mine of information, he conducted me all over the mill, including the cap, and introduced me to Mr. Bill Hethershaw, the miller. My guide, incidently, was named James Waterfield. The swish of the sails, whirr of the stones and clatter of the damsel were things not to be forgotten.

Almost two hours passed before I left James and Bill to continue on my travels to the derelict tower mills of Everton and Gringley on the Hill, both distinguished by their surviving onion-shaped cap frames. Later, fleeting glimpses were made to the tower mills at Heapham, Corringham, Kirton in Lindsey, Hibaldstow and Castlethorpe on the outskirts of Brigg. It was a fine day with plenty of sunshine and I could hardly believe my eyes when passing along the A18 east of Brigg. The white sails of Wrawby post mill were turning against a brilliant blue sky. My car couldn't help speeding up to reach the scene of activity as quickly as possible!

The young gent who was operating the mill was a British Rail employee from Scunthorpe who was busily engaged in his hobby, aided by a small team of local young ladies. I was invited into the buck and once again experienced the wonders of a live windmill producing flour. During my hour at Wrawby the mill was stopped. It was late afternoon. The brake was firmly applied after each spring sail had its shutters placed, in turn, in the open position.

My red letter day was not yet over and I had a look at the tower mill in a farmyard at Barnetby le Wold and finally the tall tower mill at Waltham, south of Grimsby, before making my long ride home to Bedford. Waltham mill seemed to be crying out for restoration, with only three and a half of its six sails intact.

Looking back on that day it is sad to record that Wrawby mill has suffered severe damage. However, it is good to know that James Waterfield has found a full-time outlet for his enthusiasm as he has become the miller at Danzey Green post mill at the Avoncroft Museum in Worcestershire.

STONE DRESSING AT PAKENHAM CHRIS HULLCOOP

What better way to remedy the excesses of the festive season than stone dressing on New Year's Day! Intrepid journeymen stone dressers Dolman and Hullcoop arrived early at Pakenham watermill intent on improving the central pair of French stones. The dressing had worn away completely and only the master furrows were left; the other three furrows on each harp were almost obliterated and the stones had a glazed surface. We illuminated the stones with angle-poise lamps - I wonder how they managed in the old days with only candles and oil lamps? Running the staff across the stones showed few high spots and a good swallow or lead-in from the eye.

We were soon chipping away, thankful to have tungsten carbide steel tipped mill bills (made by Drake & Neasden of Bradford). Several old millers in Suffolk



Chris Hullcoop stone dressing at Pakenham

used them and the ones we used had belonged to Brian Marriage and carried his initials. Edward Rackham of Wickham Market watermill used them and thought they were a great improvement on the old tempered mill bills, pieces of which used to fly off giving the old stone dressers their 'metalled look'. They are the same size and shape as traditional bills but at each end a piece of tungsten carbide steel is let in. While cutting the furrows little pieces of sharp stone hit the back of the hand and we were glad to be wearing safety gloves and dust masks. The worst part of the job was the uncomfortable position, especially for dressing the bedstone. No matter how old sacks, jackets, etc. were arranged it seemed impossible to find a good working position. After some seven hours work the stones were dressed and ready for assembly, and we were exhausted and concluded those old-time stone dressers really earned their wages.

We returned at the weekend to level the bedstone and replace and balance the runner. Although provided with four balance pots around its edge we found balancing the runner stone very difficult. Just when we thought we had found where it needed weight it seemed to change, and the ideal points for adding weight were probably between the pots. Eventually we decided to test the dynamic balance with the stone turning. We added lead weights to the pots until the stone ran without pitching and showed an even gap all round. Before covering the runner we put bran on the bedstone to prevent them touching when the mill started again. The stones now work much better and it takes less power to turn them, but the rate of production of good fine wheatmeal is slow (2 - 2½ cwt. per hour). However, it is quality that counts and old Edward Rackham used to say 'Slow grinding makes the best meal'.

BOOKS Reviewed by MARK BARNARD

'BILLINGFORD WINDMILL' Published by The Norfolk Windmills Trust; 1980. Price 50p. An attractively-produced 26 page guide to this fine tower mill which is just across the Suffolk border. There is a full description of the mill together with a history compiled by Harry Apling. Illustrated with many photographs, including some taken by Hallam Ashley just before the mill stopped work.

'SUFFOLK WINDMILLS' by Brian Flint.

This excellent book was published in 1979 at £15 and was reviewed in Newsletter 13. We are pleased to report that The Boydell Press have now seen fit to reduce it to a sensible price which will no doubt boost sales considerably. The book now represents something of a bargain at the new price of £6.95.

'ESSEX WINDMILLS, MILLERS AND MILLWRIGHTS' by Ken Farries.

This, the definitive work on Essex windmills, and the largest and most comprehensive work on mills ever undertaken, has been in preparation for several years. It is being published by Charles Skilton Ltd. in four volumes, which will allow detailed treatment of specialised topics as well as individual mills. The volumes are: I An Historical Review; II A Technical Review; III A Review by Parishes, A-K; IV A Review by Parishes, L-Z, Appendices and Index. The price is £12 per volume.

Volume I has just appeared (the others will follow at about 3-month intervals) and will be reviewed in the next Newsletter. However, a quick flick through its 100+ pages is enough to confirm that this work is in a class by itself.

NEWS

CROSSWORD RESULT

Sixteen entries were received for the S.M.G. prize crossword which appeared in the Christmas issue of the Newsletter. Of these, 14 were correct and were from: Andy Abbott, Len Ball, Harold Collins, Brian Flint, Fred Hamond, Peter Hill, Mike Newton, Vincent Pargeter, Don Paterson, John Pelling, John Spencer, Chris Seago, Richard Seago and Alan Wallis. The draw to decide the winner took place at our public meeting in February, and was made by Michelle Skinner, one of our Junior Members. The name picked out of the hat was that of Alan Wallis, and he has now been presented with his copy of Leslie Syson's 'The Watermills of Britain'. Many thanks to all who entered the competition, which no doubt will be repeated later this year!

The solution is as follows:

ACROSS: 1 Cullin 5 Rigger 8 Buck 9 Chain 10 Kiln 11 Temse 13 Tithe 15 Float
19 Ramsey 20 French 22 Ass 24 Hemlath 26 Ore 28 Stones 29 Patent 30 Cog
DOWN: 1 Cubitt 2 Lucam 3 Neck 4 Stanton 5 Rynd 6 Grist 7 Runner 12 Stump
14 Irons 15 Freese 16 Thrift 17 Dress 18 Sheer 21 Paltrok 22 Asset
23 Shoe 24 Heel 25 Head 26 Over 27 Elton

STANLEY ABLETT

We were sad to learn of the death of Stanley Ablett of Framsdon mill just after Christmas. He must have shown many thousands of visitors to the mill the fine collection of bygoners assembled by him and his son John, a collection which included tools Stanley used in his own trade of master butcher. He knew every part from selecting and buying animals, slaughtering, cutting up into joints and even produced a range of ready-cooked meats. Although over 70 when repairs to the mill started he did all he could to help, especially on the open days.

MILLS FOR SALE

Two mills are currently advertised for sale but neither are very promising. The tower at Bungay (agents: Cliffords, 78, High Street, Debenham) has long been house converted and the price of £27000 seems reasonable for the accommodation and bearing in mind what people are prepared to pay for gimmicks. It would be very satisfying to re-convert it to a mill but no machinery remains and everything would have to be made new.

The same applies to Shottisham watermill (to be auctioned on 7th. April; agents: Spear & Sons, The James Abbott Partnership, Wickham Market) which is available together with the adjoining house and nearly five acres. It has been gutted but being small it would be possible to build a new wheel and drive to a single pair of stones.

Nowadays anyone seeking a mill for restoration must be prepared to take on incomplete mills or mills so derelict they have to be rebuilt. Little else remains. This should not be too daunting to the keen young enthusiast. Pattern making is far easier today - for example, patterns for spur, pit and brakewheel rims can be built up from layers of thin ply or hardboard, giving perfect curves and eliminating the highly skilled carpentry once needed. In Holland they would think nothing of building a brand new traditional mill complete with all wooden gearing.

PAKENHAM WINDMILL

Good news at last regarding the repairs to this well known windmill. Grants have been offered by St. Edmundsbury Borough Council and by the Historic Buildings Council to enable work to commence on the replacement of the sails. This mill bears witness to the poor quality of some 'millwrighting' these days. In 1972 three sails and a stock were fitted following a lightning strike which destroyed the old ones. By summer 1979 the stock and one sail had rotted to such an extent that they caused the end of one sail to droop badly. When the stock and two sails were taken down they were found to have chronic wet rot at the point of failure - after just 7 years. It was possible to see that the meeting face between stock and whips had not been painted at all, allowing a soggy sandwich to develop which quickly led to rot. Likewise, the sail bars had been put into their mortices without paint, with the result that now all three 'new' sails need replacement! Meanwhile the old stock, put up by Amos Clarke in about 1950 is beginning to get a little tender in the poll-end and will also be replaced.

The repairs are being carried out by John Lawn from Caston and will involve three new sails (re-using shutters where possible), repairs to the fantail and two steel stocks, the first of which is now under construction. It is hoped to have two sails up and running later in the summer.

PAKENHAM WATERMILL OPENS

The Duke of Grafton, President of Suffolk Preservation Society will officially open Pakenham watermill next month and it will be open to the public from April 18th. on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.. We hope to have the mill working for the opening ceremony and to present the Duke with the first bag of flour. The mill's custodian, Richard Byers is organising a rota of people to staff the mill on the open days to enable visitors to see the wheel turning. It would be nice if the mill could be demonstrated regularly but at present anyone who wishes to see it grinding must come when S.M.G. are there working it. It is hoped that a volunteer can be found to take on regular milling duties - ideally someone retired or with plenty of spare time. If any Member knows of a person who might like to do this please let us know.

N.B. Unfortunately S.M.G. cannot guarantee to work the mill on specific dates but if any Member is interested we intend to grind on the afternoon of Friday May 29th., when the mill will be visited by a party of enthusiasts from the Dutch national mill society, 'De Hollandsche Molen'.

PROGRESS AT THELNETHAM

Slow but steady progress has continued to be made at the mill during the winter. Both pairs of stones have now been taken down and their associated spindles and gearing are being overhauled. The stone floor had been partly dismantled to expose both main beams. One of these, of pine, is in very poor condition and will need total replacement. The other beam, of oak, has been cut short and a new section is being spliced on, this work being supervised by Chris Hullcoop. Special steel brackets have been made to take the feet of the vertical posts which will be cast into the concrete ground floor. This work was done in an excellent manner by apprentices from Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies Ltd. at no expense to us whatsoever, and we are most grateful to them for helping us in this way - especially in the current economic climate. Thanks also to Chris Armour for arranging the work.

Chris Seago is continuing to rebuild the sack hoist; the bollards are now in position and the jockey pulley is shortly to be re-fitted. Dave Pearce is making a new stone tun for the 4 ft. 7 ins. stones and is also making new bedstone bearing brasses for the spindle, which had to be turned up to remove wear ridges. The old bearing 'brasses' by the way, turned out to be of apple-wood!

A couple of months ago I saw a Ruston Hornsby diesel oil engine advertised in, of all places, the 'miscellaneous sales' column of our local newspaper. A quick 'phone call followed by an inspection proved it to be perfect for the job of driving our engine-driven hurst frame and as it also ran very nicely and was mounted on road wheels(!) a deal was made. With the help of John Snowdon and his Land Rover the engine is now at the mill. It will be some time before it can be set up though as we have a few more important things to do first, such as building a new cap! Students of such things may like to know that it is a Ruston and Hornsby type 4YHR giving 20 b.h.p. at 360 r.p.m., and was sold in 1944. It has a 5 ft. flywheel and compressed air starting. It is believed to have come from a mill at St. Osyth in Essex (not the tide mill).



John Snowdon helping to remove a runner stone from the stone floor just before Christmas

We are now busy ordering materials and planning the work for this year's work-in (see below for dates). We will shortly be ordering all the material for the cap, brakewheel, brake and the stone floor, which will probably cost around £2,500. However, this is likely to be our last major item of expenditure until the sails in several years time.

The work-in this year will be in two parts. The dates are:

Saturday 25th. July - Sunday 2nd. August inclusive, and
Saturday 22nd. August - Sunday 30th. August inclusive.

As with last year it will be possible to camp at the mill and washing and cooking facilities will be provided. Otherwise local lodgings can be arranged. There are reasonably-priced local pubs serving excellent ales and food (as many of last year's helpers will testify) and there are shops within a couple of miles catering for daily needs. Please lend us your support if you can and make this year as successful and enjoyable as 1980. Anyone interested can write to me or 'phone me on Ipswich 76996.

Peter Dolman

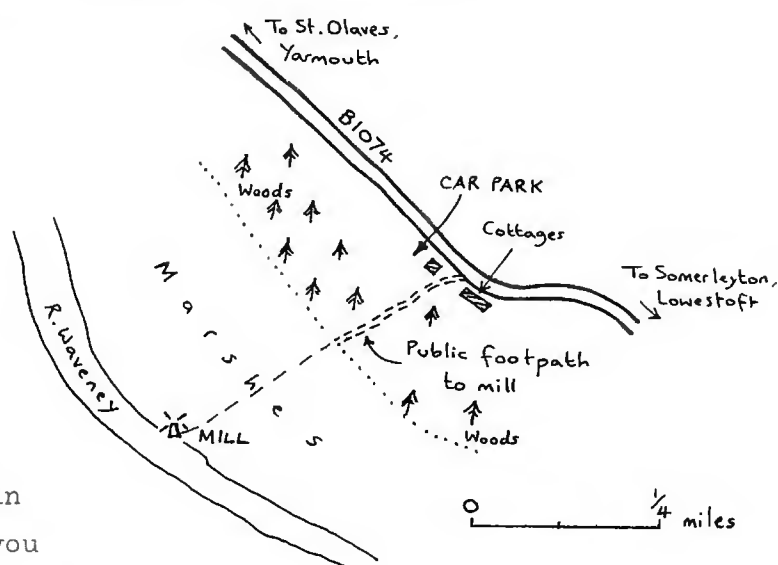
BUTTRUM'S MILL, WOODBRIDGE

In the last Newsletter we reported that this fine tower mill, which is maintained by Suffolk County Council, had been dismantled for safety reasons. We are pleased to be able to report that repair work has just commenced and a new cap is under construction at the workshops of Millwrights International Ltd. at Mapledurham in Oxfordshire. More news in the next Newsletter.

EVENTS

HERRINGFLEET OPEN DAY: SATURDAY 18th. APRIL 1981, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m..

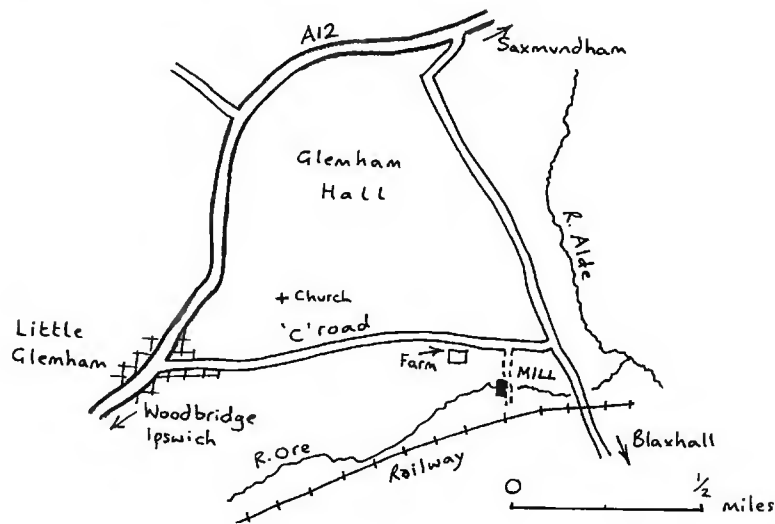
Some of our 'original' Members will recall the two visits S.M.G. paid to this fine smock drainage mill back in 1977, especially when the mill was 'dressed overall' for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Although we promised visits after this, we had to disappoint Members as the repairs took longer than expected. However, we are delighted to say that the mill is now open again and we can wholeheartedly recommend you to pay it a visit as it should now be in prime condition. Wind permitting, we will be running the mill, which will be decorated with bunting to mark the re-opening. The event is being publicised by the County Council (who maintain the mill) and we can expect a good attendance from the general public. Members are asked to park in the field just to the north of the start of the footpath down to the mill (the entrance to the car park will be sign-



posted). The walk to the mill is about half a mile. If the weather should be cold and wet, dress accordingly as there is precious little shelter at the mill! Likewise there are no 'facilities' so come prepared with sandwiches, etc.. See you there!

VISIT TO LITTLE GLEMHAM WATERMILL: SUNDAY 24th. MAY 1981, 2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

This mill was mentioned in our last Newsletter, when we reported that S.M.G. Member Denis Thorold was negotiating a lease of the mill with the aim of carrying out restoration work. Denis is now living in the adjacent mill house and has kindly given us permission for a visit during the May Bank Holiday weekend. The mill is about a mile east of Little Glemham village, down a short unmade track from the 'C' road.



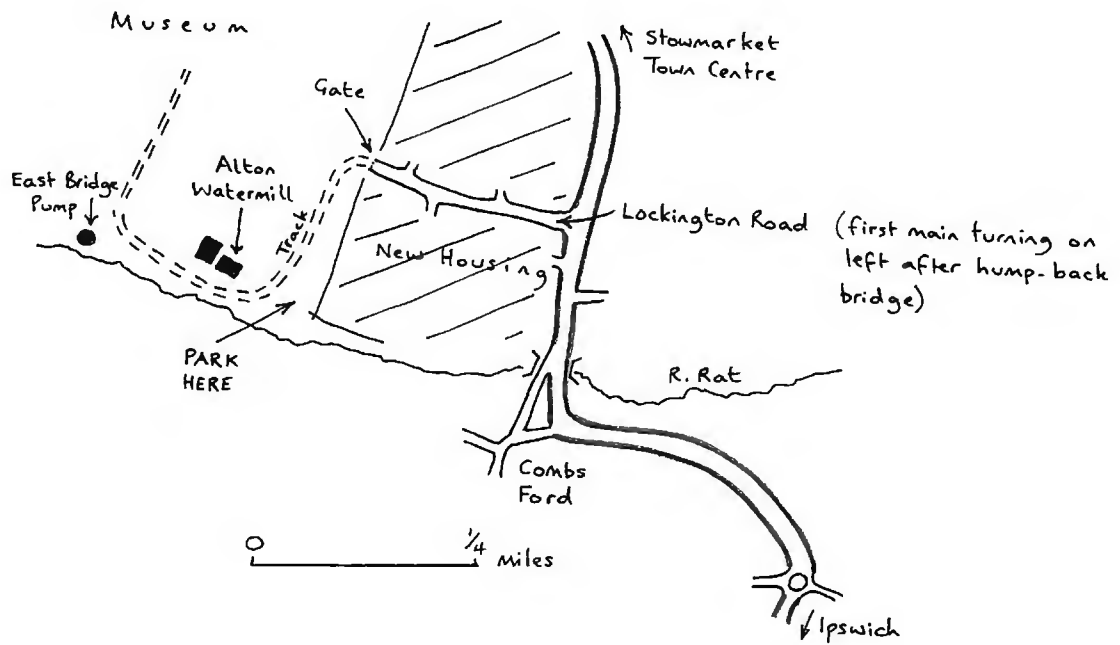
S.M.G. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: ALTON WATERMILL, MUSEUM OF EAST ANGLIAN LIFE, STOWMARKET; SUNDAY 7th. JUNE 1981 at 11 a.m.

Abbott's Hall museum has been chosen as the venue for this year's A.G.M., giving Members a chance to see progress on the mill pond for Alton mill as well as the rebuilt East Bridge windpump, together with the rest of the exhibits. The meeting will be held on the first floor of the watermill and the programme is as follows:-

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last A.G.M.
3. Report of Treasurer
4. Report of Editor
5. Report of Secretary
6. Election of Committee Members for 1981-2
7. Any Other Business
8. Chairman's report on S.M.G. work during 1980-1 (illustrated with slides)

Members may wish to bring a pic-nic lunch (plenty of delightful spots to eat) although there are several eating places within easy reach in the centre of Stowmarket. On this occasion the museum can be entered from the Lockington Road gate and cars parked by the watermill.

Stowmarket is within easy reach of most parts of Suffolk, so let's hope we can better last year's A.G.M. attendance (35) and enjoy the same sunny, warm weather we had on that occasion.



PRACTICAL WORK: HOLDING REPAIRS AT SYLEHAM AND DRINKSTONE

We hope to continue work at both these post mills this year - if we don't they will not survive. The main threats are buck and roundhouse roofs. At present all four are letting in water and it is difficult to know how best to repair them without full restoration for which we have neither money nor manpower. Whatever we do must be quick, cheap and last well, a difficult compromise but one we should be able to manage. Anyone interested in helping at these mills please write to Chris Hullcoop, 42, High Road West, Felixstowe, or 'phone Ipswich 76911 during office hours.

Other Dates to Note

Saturday May 9th. S.P.A.B. day tour to Hampshire mills.

Thursday September 3rd. - Sunday September 6th. S.P.A.B. weekend tour of mills, based at Woolley Hall, near Wakefield, Yorks..

Saturday November 21st. S.P.A.B. Watermill Meeting, London.

NEW S.M.G. MEMBERS SINCE NEWSLETTER 18 (full Members unless otherwise stated)

BURLINSON, Vanessa (Miss) (Jun.)
The Grove, Higham, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP28 6NY

DORRINGTONS Ltd. (Corp.)
Station Road, Sawbridgeworth, Herts.

DOVER, Anthony W.
19, Moore's Close, Debenham, Stowmarket, Suffolk

FARRIES, Kenneth W.
Garden Farm House, Copthill Lane, Kingswood, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 6HN

MANN, Frank W.
Lower Lodge, Brook Lane, Playford, Ipswich IP6 9DX

MILLER, Gary P.
8, Ash Road, Onehouse, Stowmarket, Suffolk

MILLER, Sandra G. (Mrs.)
8, Ash Road, Onehouse, Stowmarket, Suffolk

RANSON, F.G.H.
60, Penzance Road, Kesgrave, Ipswich

SEAGO, Richard M.
33, Acacia Road, Thorpe St. Andrew, Norwich

SHARP, Robert W.
4, Plough Rise, Upminster, Essex

SMITH, Gregg O.
Box 2866, RAF Bentwaters, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 2RQ

STEWART, James D.
55, West Street, Faversham, Kent

WOODWARD-NUTT, P.J.
11, Summerhill Road, Aberdeen

Denis THOROLD has now moved to The Mill House, Little Glemham, Saxmundham, Suffolk

.....

Membership now stands at a record level of 124

.....