

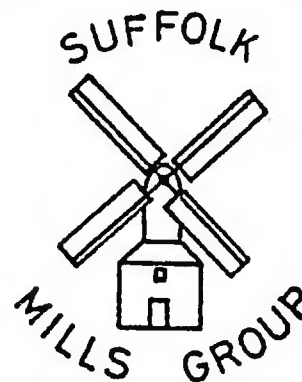
SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter Number 21

OCTOBER 1981

SECRETARY: Peter Dolman
95, Bixley Road,
Ipswich

EDITOR: Mark Barnard,
41, Melbourne Road,
Ipswich



Since the last Newsletter appeared S.M.G. has again been very busy, not only with the work at Thelnetham, but also with 'first aid' repairs to Drinkstone post mill and continuing commitments at Pakenham watermill. Added to this have been visits to other mills for a variety of reasons - to check their condition, to remove threatened items, to advise on their repair and to organise and attend open days. Inevitably much of this work tends to fall on a small proportion - less than 5% - of our membership, but I would like to think a few more of you could contribute something to the Group, whether it be helping with repairs, writing for the Newsletter, or even just coming along to the visits (the turnout for the last two visits was disappointing). Not only would more participation help to make the work we already do to protect Suffolk mills more enjoyable and worthwhile, it could also 'open new doors' in the future. So see you on October 25th and November 20th then?

Finally, please note that our Secretary, Peter Dolman, is moving house shortly; his new address can be found on the last page.

Mark Barnard

THELNETHAM WORK-IN PETER DOLMAN and MARK BARNARD

The second summer 'work-in' has now taken place and once again was a great success, with much progress visible inside the mill, although from outside of course things look much as before. We decided on two separate weeks of full-time work this year to allow more people to come, include four instead of three week-ends, and to enable us to 'take stock' of progress after week one and re-organise ourselves. It was also necessary because of the complexity of concreting the ground floor, which at all times had to be available for storage of heavy items like millstones and for giving access to the upper floors. This meant that the job had to be tackled in two phases, the three week interval between the work-ins allowing time for half of the floor to gain sufficient strength for heavy items to be moved onto it so that the remaining half could be completed.

The first week started on Saturday (July 25th) a little slowly as volunteers began arriving from various parts of the country and setting up camp. Even so, by evening some progress was visible - the dust floor joisting had been completed, and work had started on the new stone floor beam and on the wall sockets to receive it and on breaking up the remainder of the old ground floor. Work continued apace the following day and by Monday we were ready with rope tackle to carefully

haul the new stone floor beam into position via the loading door. This oak beam weighed about three times more than the rotten one it replaced and must have been close to half a ton, but the operation went smoothly and it was soon safely in place.

Thanks to fine weather, steady progress was made with all the major tasks we had planned, and a cross-section of the tower would have seen people beavering away at all levels, as well as outside! On the dust floor, in a sweatshop-like atmosphere beneath the tarpaulin, new floorboarding was being carefully laid, using cramps to ensure as close a fit as possible, while lower down the stone floor joisting was gradually appearing, together with the edge curb. As well as the other stone floor beam which we had previously managed to retain by splicing on one new end and corbelling the other, we were also able to re-use some of the old joists and stone bearers. We made good progress with the concreting, completing four bays including the difficult one under the ground floor hurst-mounted stones. Luckily we were able to borrow a large concrete mixer from a nearby farm which speeded things up, but even so on one occasion Peter Adshead was still 'smoothing off' at half past midnight! Amid the ordered chaos outside the mill an army of helpers were busy with brushes and scrapers cleaning and painting the major iron components. The windshaft was put in its bearings to enable it to be turned and was given a smart two coats of red lead primer. On 29th July we marked the royal wedding day by flying the Union Jack from the top of the tower; perhaps by the time the next royal occasion comes round we will have some sails up to deck with bunting in the traditional manner!

By the end of the week half the ground floor had been concreted and about half of the stone floor had been framed up. The boarding on the dust floor had been completed and a start made on rebuilding the top of the tower, which was found to be not quite as bad as expected. The dust floor window arch had been rebuilt in readiness for casting a concrete lintol against it on the inside.

Between work-ins the edge kerb to the stone floor was bedded in mortar and the millstones and other items were moved onto the newly completed concrete.

During the second session we were again blessed with fine, sunny weather, and a good number of volunteers. On the stone floor the joisting was soon completed enabling boarding to commence in earnest, and by the end of the work-in about two-thirds of the floor had been boarded. We were also able to fit up the old wooden governors in a new cradle beneath this floor. The hursting around the great spur wheel was mostly in sound condition and we were able to retain five of the six original posts. For the post we replaced we used part of a stock from East Bridge drainage mill, which blends quite well with the old wood and introduces a feature of interest (we have also used part of the East Bridge sails in the structure of the bin floor). Outside, once the concrete ground floor was completed (by Thursday) we turned our attention to the daunting task of re-pointing. At first sight this may seem an easy job but great



THELNETHAM WORK-IN 1981
 (All photos by Peter Dolman)

Above: the new stone floor beam being hoisted into the mill

Above Right: floorboarding in progress on the dust floor

Right: joisting the stone floor

Below Right: the ground floor concreting in progress

Below: repointing the tower



care is needed to achieve a neat finish, especially when the surface of the brickwork has crumbled away. At the bottom of the tower the bricks are especially bad, due to the lack of a damp course.

The main task at the top of the tower in the second week was the rebuilding of the brickwork. In preparation, polythene was laid on the new dust floor boarding to save it from damage, and the remainder of the old curb was removed. The tower is being taken down four courses and rebuilt to a perfect circle, using the best of the old bricks topped off with two courses of engineering brick to provide a firm base for the new curb. A weak point, which had already allowed the tower to distort, was the top window. To strengthen this after the new arch had been built, the backing brickwork was replaced by a reinforced concrete lintol which should manage better than the old timber one did. In order to get the new brickwork perfectly level and circular a trammel was built on the upright shaft, which was itself made vertical and able to turn by means of a special bearing on the dust floor. To ensure that the upright shaft was absolutely vertical and that the trammel described a perfect, level circle we used a water level, a long water-filled rubber tube with sight glasses at either end. As the water meniscus in each sight glass is always at exactly the same level, by trial and error we were able to level up the trammel to within $\frac{1}{32}$ inch. Rebuilding the brickwork was a very slow job because of the need to work to fine tolerances, each brick having to be checked individually. Even so, we managed to complete over half of the job - the sunny weather was a great help - leaving the remainder to be tackled next summer. A start was also made on cutting out the old holding-down bolts which had weakened the walls over the years. The brickwork will be made good and six new holding-down bolts will be installed in undamaged areas of wall.

At the end of the work-in we were very pleased with progress, with most of the work planned having been completed. We have made rapid progress since the repairs started, and already one of the major tasks of the full restoration - the reconstruction of the floors - has been almost finished, making the mill look much more respectable inside. Special thanks are due to the Members and friends of S.M.G. who helped this year and who are gradually turning the vision of a working Thelnetham mill into a reality. For the record, this year's volunteers were: Andy Abbott, Peter Adshead, Nigel Bacon, Chris Baker, Mark Barnard, Stephen Binks, Colin and Richard Budgie, Reg Clover, Des Codd, Kate Davidson, Fred Davis, Peter and Charles Dolman, Wilfred and Cynthia Foreman, Andrew Haylett and friend, John Holdway, Chris Hullcoop, Stephen Kay, Cliff Lovett, Shirley McCauley, Phillipa Norchi, Mike Organ, Vincent Pargeter, Dave Pearce, Don Porter, Michael Roots (whose enthusiasm for mills was a salutary lesson to us all!), Chris and Richard Seago, Roger and Michelle Skinner, Richard Slaughter, Basil Smith, Alan Wallis and Chris Wilson. We were also assisted one weekend by five members of Colchester Endeavour Group, led by



THELNETHAM WORK-IN 1981

Above Left: the dust floor window opening before rebuilding

Above: dust floor window showing surrounding brickwork rebuilt

Left: Richard Budgie rough-shaping the oak finial with an adze

Below: some of the volunteers during the second week

Back row: Stephen Kay, Charles Dolman, Andy Abbott, Michael Roots, Dave Pearce, Richard Budgie, Nigel Bacon, Chris Seago, Mark Barnard, Peter Dolman
 Front row: Phillipa Norchi, Chris Baker, Cliff Lovett, Chris Wilson, Colin Budgie, Chris Hullcoop



David Atkins, and by four local children who helped us clear up in return for some of the enormous heap of bottles we unearthed last year!

We are also extremely grateful for other assistance provided by: Chris Armour and the apprentices of Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies (ironwork); Roland Smith (polythene); Fred Davis (loan of guillotine); Adrian Colman (loan of tirfor winch); Brian Davey, our neighbour (water and electricity); Stanton Middle school (Elsan toilet); Daniel Haskin (loan of concrete mixer); Suffolk College, Ipswich (loan of tools).

During the second week we were pleased to be visited by Mr. and Mrs. Humphries, the previous owners of the mill. This was the first time they had seen inside since the repair work commenced and they were impressed by all the activity going on around them and by what we had already achieved in the 20 months since they sold it to us. Two 'Eastern Daily Press' reporters paid us a visit during the second week, and a good illustrated article appeared in the paper a few days later. Another welcome visitor was Mrs. Elsie Harvey, one of the daughters of Harry Bryant, miller at Theltham at the turn of the century. She had been born at the mill house and remembered the mill working in the early years of this century.

So what do the next few months hold in store? Well, work has already started on a new workshop building to eventually replace the old corrugated iron shack which we use at present. Work will begin this autumn on a new elm curb which will be made off-site and installed next summer. Various pieces of machinery are being repaired at different locations and likewise new windows and stone furniture are being 'sub-contracted' out. Inside the mill the work-in has left several unfinished items which will be completed at weekends. Looking further ahead, all the timber for the cap is now in hand and construction will commence next year; the timber for the new brakewheel and brake is also in store, seasoning for use in several years time. Further news of the project will of course appear in future Newsletters.

NEW BOOKS Reviewed by MARTIN WATTS and MARK BARNARD

'THE WINDMILLS OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND' by Nigel Moon. Published by Sycamore Press, Wyomondham, Leics.; 1981. Price £24.00. 214 pages.

The immediate value of Nigel Moon's book is that it provides an apparently full gazetteer of windmills in these two English counties. The gazetteers follow a logical, alphabetical sequence, first standing then vanished mills, and both counties are treated separately. This is just as well, as the book is completely un-indexed. The individual site entries are mostly rather sketchy and under-written, often lacking the bare statistical facts that might reasonably be expected in a work dubbed as 'definitive'. There are over 100 well-reproduced illustrations, including many old photographs of good quality and content, but the odd format has caused some to be printed sideways and some of the modern

interiors are built up from two or three photographs put together. The resultant distortion is worse than from the use of a wide angle lens. Squeezed in between the list of sites and their references is a nicely written 14 page piece by Anne Long on 'The Hives Family, Millers of Leicestershire', a marked contrast to the 28 pages of references irritating both for their lack of proper cross-referencing and their obvious occupation of expensive space. Whatever happened to reference numbers or footnotes?

It must be counter-productive to publish what is simply a useful county guide in such an expensive, glossy and pseudo-antiquarian form and to limit the print to 500 copies. It is difficult to believe that this book is from the same stable as Norman Ashton's 'Leicestershire Water-Mills', so economically produced in 1977, for at £24 sales will be limited, even among enthusiasts. I suggest that S.M.G. Members each put that amount of money into saving a mill and use this book in their local libraries. (M.W.)

Editor's Note If, having read the reviews, you nevertheless feel you wish to include this book in your mill library, it will be to your advantage to order it through Suffolk Mills Group. Please contact the Secretary or myself for further details.

'WICKLEWOOD WINDMILL'. The Norfolk Windmills Trust; 1981. Price 15p. 12 pages. Wicklewood tower mill, which is owned by Norfolk County Council, is at present undergoing extensive repairs to return it to working order. This brief unillustrated guide is intended to furnish the visitor with basic information on the history and machinery of the mill and on the restoration work itself. It is intended to produce a more comprehensive guide when the restoration is completed. (M.J.B.)

PUZZLE

The photograph opposite was sent to us by Harold Collins, who asks 'what and where is it?'. Clue: it has only been in its present position (as shown in the photograph) since the end of April, 1981. (Not an easy one this!)

Answer at end of Newsletter.



OF MILLS AND MEN (2) CHRIS HULLCOOP

This is the second in the occasional series in which our venerable Chairman takes a look at some of the problems encountered in mill preservation. Here he touches on the vexed subject of the standard of repairs. Despite all our experience in repairing mills over the past decades it is sad to think that little has been learned and tens of thousands of pounds of precious money for our mills are still wasted every year simply because of the poor survival value of modern repair work.

'SOFT ROT TIME BOMBS'

Dealers in cheap second-hand cars have the reputation of being able to ensure that their vehicles travel at least a few miles from the showroom without giving trouble. These jaunty rogues are surely a long way from blacksmiths, thatchers, carpenters and millwrights, honest craftsmen whose work endures. Alas, much millwrighting in recent years, while lasting long enough to allow the mayoral limousine to travel out of sight after the opening ceremony (although in one local instance not even that long!), has little resistance to decay and in under ten years all is ruin again and the cost of putting it right two or three times that of the original repairs.

Why should this be? It did not happen in the old days and yet we have all seen examples of real bodes from the mill's working days or even in its building. Like everything else things happen the way they do not for a single reason but for a combination of several. There are four main factors in the success or failure of mill repairs: design, materials, craftsmanship and maintenance. If all four are good the work will last for centuries. In the old days perhaps two of these factors were lacking but the others may have been above average so the mill survived. Today often all four are lacking and all too often the result is a waste of taxpayer's money and disillusionment for people who worked hard for their mill and had hoped it would at least survive past their lifetime. Inevitably it is the mills themselves which are blamed and people conclude that restoring mills to lasting good condition is impossible.

The design of the new work should be dictated by what was there originally or, more usually, in the last working days of the mill; an old machine is being restored not a new one built. Good provision for water run-off is essential for durability, yet how often is this neglected with disastrous results. It was once said 'When will architects realise that it sometimes rains?'. Millwrights are equally guilty. We have all seen ill-fitting windows with sills with insufficient fall which seem designed to rot as quickly as possible and as a bonus guide water into the mill's interior. It keeps the manufacturers in business - a kind of built-in obsolescence rather like the motor trade again. Exposed timbers have obvious vulnerable points, for example where sheer trees project at the back of a cap or where fly posts are joined to sheer trees or

carriage. Here run-off water concentrates at one weak point and rot will quickly take hold unless a simple little channel or dripper is provided to guide most of the water away. Surfaces of very vulnerable timbers such as the tops of post mill tailpoles or step strings can be neatly covered in aluminium sheet rather like the small metal caps which cover the exposed end grain at the top of telegraph poles.

There is no doubt that materials are not what they used to be and millwrights often use this as an excuse to cover up poor craftsmanship. Gone is that superb quality Baltic pitch pine which could withstand so much neglect. Weatherboards made from this highly dense and resinous timber hardly needed paint. Yet although modern pine is poor it can be treated chemically against decay - the bases of telegraph poles dug up after fifty years are often in good condition, a tribute to chemical treatment. Despite this, untreated softwoods are so often used, which become wet and are soon in rampant decay. English oak is still easily available from small country timber yards. It is tricky to work, it can twist and does not come in precise dimensions but who wants mill timbers to resemble factory-made roof trusses?

The weak points in any structure are the joints. In a mill they are subject to seasonal movement, water penetration and decay. To prevent this the old methods can be used just as effectively nowadays but often they are not. Take the example of sails. Many mill enthusiasts will have witnessed the last working sails being lowered from a mill, as old as the century and now showing signs of decay. If the old joints are examined it is seen the mortices are accurately cut, smooth and coated liberally with white lead paint. Although the sails that replace them can never be made of the same resinous pitch pine, the modern timber can be treated against decay. If it is not possible to pressure-treat whips, the mortices can be treated by plugging one side and pouring in fungicide. The painting of all joints before assembly is absolutely vital, the small amount of time it takes giving the sails many times the life of those not treated in this manner. Bolts should be made properly and for this a small forge should be part of every millwright's workshop. Mild steel parts should be galvanised, painted and assembled with thick grease. All too often bolts are made from threaded rod, a material which may be appropriate to a cheap holding operation but should never be seen in permanent repairs. It is hardly surprising then that local authorities become anguished when they see new sails falling to pieces in under ten years when, had they done nothing, the old sails would still be in place.

Another 'soft rot time bomb' is set ticking every time a mill is badly boarded, yet it is no more costly or difficult to avoid this. Weatherboards should be pressure-treated and painting should include two coats on their backs for a little over the extent of the overlap. If this is not done and paint merely applied to the boards once they are fitted to the mill then their most vulnerable area is unprotected. Water is drawn up between the boards by surface tension and by the natural absorbency of the timber and the result is a 'soggy sandwich' with rapid

rot inevitable.

Following poor design, materials and workmanship is poor maintenance which like the former consumes large sums of money. Mills are often shrouded in scaffolding, although the work done from these costly platforms is often ineffective, while the mill can be damaged from careless handling of the scaffolding. Painting mill sails at great expense usually accelerates their decay, because it is merely cosmetic and not protective. In summer, when timbers dry out and joints shrink, the sails should be treated with an organic solvent fungicide injected into the joints followed by painting all round the joints and forcing paint into them. Only when this has been done should the sails be painted all over, otherwise the water merely runs off the exposed parts of the sail not likely to decay and into the joints where decay is rapid.

What then can be done to try to ensure that money spent on mills is not wasted? Vincent Pargeter, millwright to Essex County Council has drafted a Code of Practice and submitted this to the Wind and Watermill Section of S.P.A.B. and all those interested for additions and constructive criticism. Chris Wilson of Over mill has written notes on good and bad workmanship and the 'survival value' of mill repairs. It is eventually hoped to publish a Code of Practice which will give positive guidance to those responsible for the repair and maintenance of mills. Yet even if the best advice on repairs is followed, what counts most is continuous T.L.C. or Tender Loving Care. There must be someone nearby who cares for a mill in a practical way, someone who will identify the cause of leaks after a storm and repair them in the next spell of fine weather, who knows the mill's weak points and heeds the old 'stitch in time' proverb. At the moment precious few mills receive such care and only when boards or sails fall off do those responsible consider repairs or even maintenance. Every mill needs a little supporters club, even if only one person who will visit it regularly and take on those small but vital maintenance jobs. Without this commitment the majority of our mills will continue to decline.

VANISHED MILLS PETER DOLMAN

The first of a regular feature describing some of Suffolk's bygone mills.

THORNHAM MAGNA MILL

This post mill was one of the oldest established mills in Suffolk. It is said to have been built about 1680, although firm support for this date is sadly lacking. What is certain though is that a mill was standing here (at O.S. grid reference 110711) when Kirby's 1736 map was surveyed. The mill was on a prominent site, only 200 yards or so from the main road from Ipswich to Norwich, in the middle of open fields, the miller's house being some distance off. The mill was dated 1750 and is recorded on every county map, virtually up to the present day. I have not uncovered anything about its earlier life yet and the first reference I have is from the 'Suffolk Chronicle' for 13th August 1842

when 'A most superior WIND-MILL, in full trade, with Patent Sails, 2 pairs of French Stones, Flour Mill, Jumper and going gears complete' was advertised for auction. William Canler was miller and owner. It is unlikely that the mill was sold at this time, for in October 1847 it was announced in the 'Suffolk Chronicle' that William Canler was retiring from milling. An advertisement in November 1848 offered what is probably this mill to be let: 'A capital WIND-MILL with Round-house - Apply to Mr. Thos. Canler, of Denham, or to Mr. J.L. Moore, land-agent, Hoxne.'

Kelly's directory of 1853-4 lists Samuel Webster as miller; in 1858 J. Pierepont; in 1883-5 James Rose (by wind) and from 1892 to 1925 William Rose (from 1916 by wind and steam).

It finally stopped working about 1940 and was partly dismantled. The mill stood disused but mostly complete until the afternoon of 17th May 1959 when a group of inmates absconded from the Kerrison Approved School at nearby Thorndon. The first unoccupied building they chanced upon was this mill and in an act of malicious vandalism they set it on fire. By the time the alarm had been raised it was well alight and there was little the fire brigade could do. The remains were subsequently cleared away and it is now difficult to find exactly where the mill stood.

The mill originally had a small buck and had been extended at both head and tail. The post had an extensive 'corset' at the top to contain splits. Power came from two patent and two common sails carried by a wooden windshaft with an iron poll end. An eight bladed fantail turned the mill to the wind. Two pairs of 4 ft. French stones were carried in the head, overdriven by an iron wallower and great spur wheel, with wooden stone nuts. The mill was terribly out of balance, and used to have a box of bricks in the tail to help counter this; even so, it was always 'headsick'. The brick roundhouse had curious louvred windows and had two floors, containing a pair of French stones which could be driven by a steam engine.

MILL NEWS

DALHAM MILL

In the last Newsletter we were pleased to report that Suffolk County Council had decided to complete the restoration of this fine smock mill. Unfortunately the owner of the mill, Frank Farrow, was adamant that the firm of millwrights who had successfully tendered for the remaining work would not be allowed to enter the site, and that he would sooner see the mill left in its present state. Negotiation



Thornham Magna mill in 1928

proved fruitless and, as there was no good reason for the County Council to accept a higher tender, the result is that now only modest weatherproofing works will be put in hand. Not surprisingly, the County Council can give no guarantee that it will be able to undertake the remaining stages of the restoration in the future, especially as generous offers of grants from the Historic Buildings Council and Forest Heath District Council have now had to be turned down.

MILLS FOR SALE

The most important Suffolk mill currently on the market is Sapiston watermill, 2½ miles north west of Ixworth. This is a timber-framed and brick building, partly rebuilt and modernised in the nineteenth century (see Newsletter 17). The machinery is complete and in fine condition, and includes iron waterwheel, three pairs of stones, cleaner, mixer and an impressive 8-yard flour machine. Although there is no longer a supply of water to the wheel (the gates have been removed and the head race banked off), the mill could still easily be driven by engine, the pulley drive to the crown wheel remaining intact. Adjoining the three storey mill is a pair of cottages which if converted to one house would afford very spacious accommodation. Offers are invited for the mill, cottages and about 4¼ acres, the agents being Bidwells, Trumpington Road, Cambridge CB2 2LD. S.M.G. have produced a short report on this mill which we will gladly send to any Member who thinks he may be able to help find the mill a sympathetic owner.

Needham mill, Weybread, astride the River Waveney, is another Suffolk water-mill recently offered for sale. This was house-converted a few years ago although the machinery had already been removed. The asking price for the mill and 9½ acres is £87,500; contact Robin Knight, Estate Agent, Harleston, Norfolk.

Hawk's Mill, Needham Market has been on the market since we featured it in the last Newsletter, although as this is a very spacious, almost empty building with planning permission for 9 flats it is not likely to appeal to the average mill enthusiast. The vendors of the mill kindly offered S.M.G. some items from it, including the sack hoist (which would almost certainly be destroyed in any conversion or new use). This has now been dismantled and is in store.

WOODBIDGE TIDE MILL POND

Construction work on the new pond for Woodbridge tide mill has now finished until next Spring, allowing time for the banks to settle. Owing to constructional difficulties the final cost of the project has risen to around £30,000, although the remaining work will definitely go ahead. To save costs no tidal gates will be fitted, an inlet pipe with a flap valve being used instead. The pond will enable the mill to run 'light' for about 1¼ hours, the purpose being to demonstrate the machinery to visitors rather than to do any milling.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP FORMED

September 23rd saw the formation of the Suffolk Industrial Archaeology Society

with an inaugural meeting at Abbot's Hall museum, Stowmarket. The objects of the Society are the recording of industrial archaeology, principally in Suffolk, the publication of reports, the preservation of important technological artefacts and records and co-operation with other bodies engaged in similar work. As wind and watermills are an important part of industrial archaeology in Suffolk there is clearly a degree of overlap between this new society and S.M.G.. However, the industrial archaeologists will mainly be focussing their attention on less well-researched areas of the subject, such as maltings, lime kilns and brickworks. S.M.G. welcomes the emergence of this new group which should lead to a greater awareness of the industrial history of the county.

S.M.G. also welcomes the news that a 'mini mills group' is being formed at Abbot's Hall museum, Stowmarket to help look after and run both Alton watermill (the new pond was formally opened on August 22nd) and East Bridge windpump.

S.M.G. WORK AT DRINKSTONE MILLS

This summer we have patched and painted the head and buck roof of the 1689 post mill. The weatherboards have reached the point where they should be completely replaced but there is neither money nor manpower for this so splits, patches of rot around old nails and a multitude of other sins have been patched with that splendid bitumen-backed aluminium foil called Flashband. Both head and roof have been given three coats of white solignum paint with the refinement of a little black paint added which makes a light silvery grey, the soft colour of old mills which are so often painted with a harsh, almost blinding white.

More work had been planned but now the short days are almost here and we must postpone this until next year. This highlights the need for more Members to take on practical jobs at mills even if only small. It's impossible for the hard-pressed few to be at every mill directing operations, even if there was anyone to direct. People are needed who will take on a job and proceed on their own and at their own pace through the summer months. S.M.G. can give guidance, make introductions, have funds available, arrange for keys and so on, but the 'hard pressed few' cannot always be there. If our mills are to survive they must have more practical support.

PAKENHAM WATERMILL

A special open day on September 20th was well supported with over 120 visitors



Drinkstone post mill: a recent view

during the afternoon, while a coach party from Friends of Norfolk Windmills visited the mill in the morning. The mill was grinding for several hours and made 15 cwt. of fine barley meal for Mike Bryant, whose windmill was also open and working. S.M.G. Members Peter Dolman and John Snowdon manned the mill, which performed admirably all day, only using a little water and running the stones up to about 100 r.p.m.. The restored sackhoist was used to lift the grain, which was in $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. sacks. An additional attraction in the afternoon was a return visit by the Eastern Electricity Board apprentices to run the Blackstone oil engine. This started easily but ran for only a couple of short bursts as it has no permanent cooling system yet.

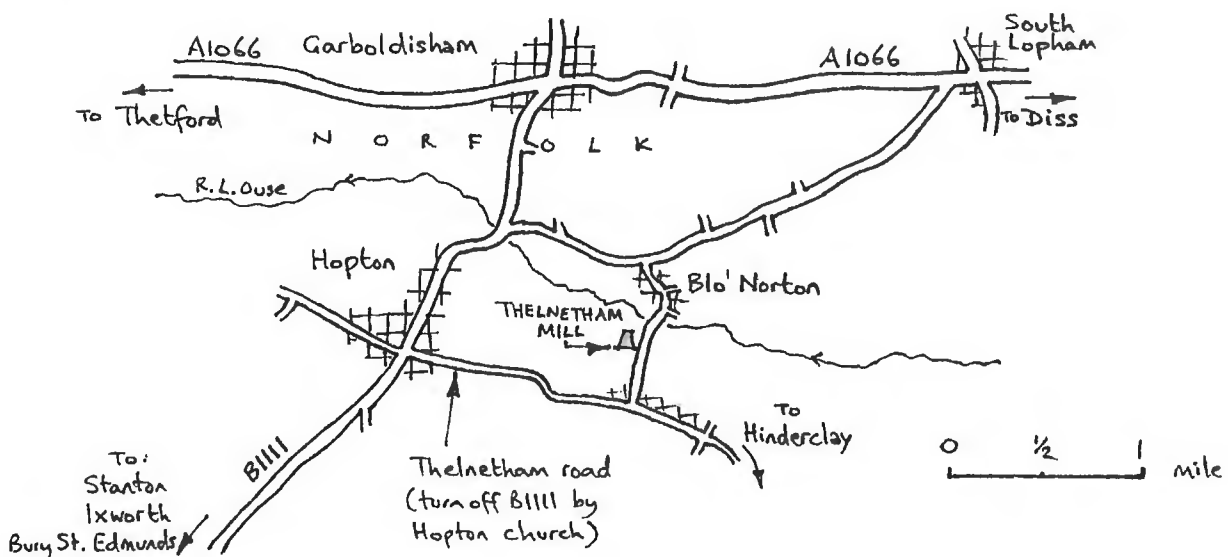
During the past year the mill had ground nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons, of which almost one ton was wholemeal flour. Once the remaining health regulation work is carried out it will be possible to sell flour at the mill to visitors, so generating some valuable income for maintenance and other overheads. Suffolk Preservation Society hope to complete the necessary work by next Spring and are looking for a volunteer miller to work it enough to cover its small trade. Anyone interested?

EVENTS

VISIT TO THELNETHAM MILL: SUNDAY OCTOBER 25th 1981, 2 pm. - 4.30 pm.

Now that the reconstruction of the floors is substantially complete we are giving Members the chance to come and see for themselves the progress we've made towards our goal of returning Thelnetham tower mill to working order. At a time when many of our mills are still deteriorating and badly in need of repair work, Members will find it stimulating to visit a mill where something positive is happening, and where the work is being done purely by voluntary effort.

Thelnetham mill is one mile east of the village of Hopton and just south of the small Norfolk village of Blo' Norton.

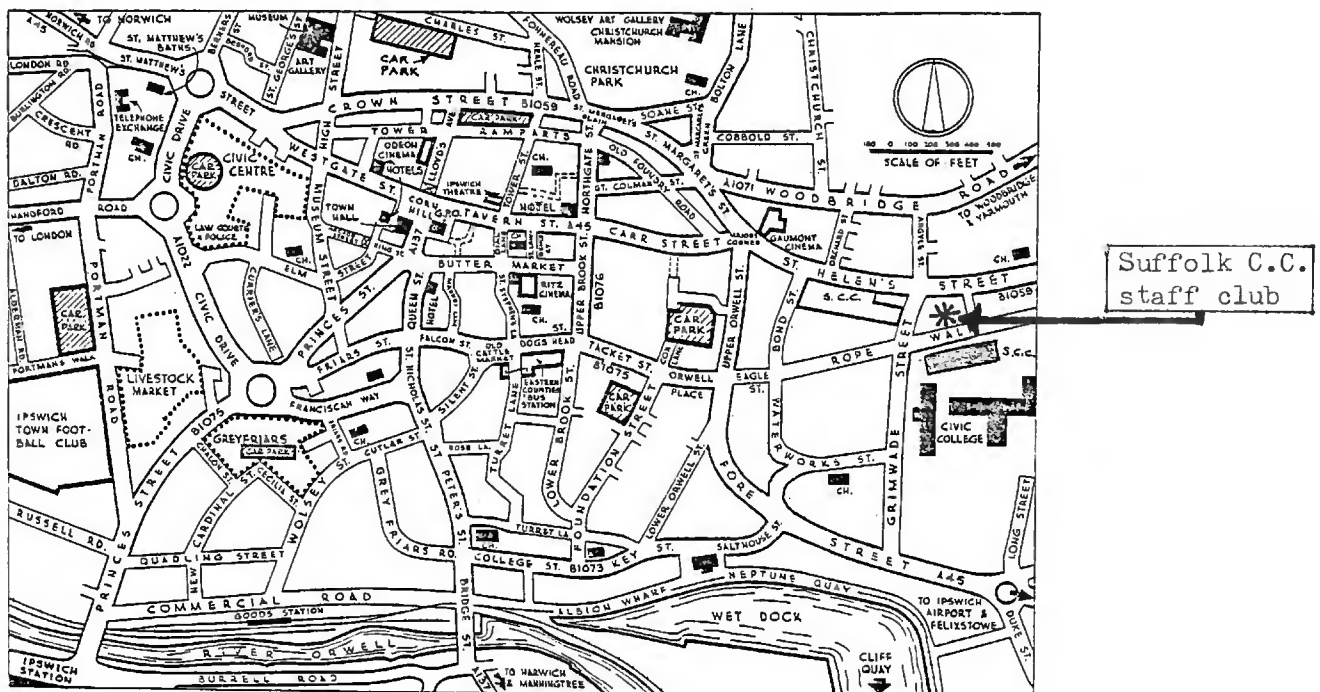


S.M.G. SOCIAL EVENING: SUFFOLK C.C. STAFF CLUB, ROPE WALK, IPSWICH;
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20th 1981, from 7.30 pm. onwards

We are repeating last year's opportunity for Members to gather in the comfort of the Suffolk County Council staff club lounge for an informal evenings' entertainment. During the evening there will be plenty of time to show and discuss any slides you may care to bring along as well as anything else of mill interest. All the slides of the 1981 Thelnetham work-in will be shown for the first time (and possibly the last - we usually edit them!). Refreshments will include beer, wine, tea and coffee, as well as a variety of buffet-style 'eats' (a small charge will be made for the drink).

The staff club building is opposite the main entrance to St. Edmund House, the large new Suffolk C.C. office block along Rope Walk (east of the town centre).

We very much hope this event will be well supported. Diaries out!!



CONTINENTAL TOUR 1982

A note from Mark Barnard

Following the most enjoyable weeks' visit to Holland in June this year (see last Newsletter) I am considering the possibility of another foreign mill trip one week next summer. Needless to say things are very much 'in the air' at present but even at this early stage I would like to hear from any S.M.G. Member who may be interested in coming, especially if they can offer transport. The trip would probably take place in the early part of the summer, with north Germany /Denmark as a possible destination. Numbers will be strictly limited (probably a maximum of 12) so I'm afraid I can't guarantee that everyone who expresses an interest will be given an opportunity to come.

Other Dates to Note

November 14th 1981 S.P.A.B. Watermill Meeting; London
February 18th 1982 Friends of Norfolk Windmills public meeting; Norwich central library lecture theatre
March 20th 1982 S.P.A.B. Windmill Meeting, London
May 8th 1982 S.P.A.B. annual one day tour (International Mills Day)
November 20th 1982 S.P.A.B. Watermill Meeting, London

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NEW S.M.G. MEMBERS SINCE NEWSLETTER 20

BACON, Nigel J.
25, Barrington Gardens, Basildon, Essex
Tel. Basildon 27072 (home); Romford 64407 (work)

LAWRENCE, R.G.
'Flint House', Thetford Road, Ixworth, Bury St. Edmunds IP31 2EU
Tel. Pakenham 31616 (home)

NORCHI, Phillipa
15, Cross Gate, Mexborough, South Yorkshire S64 0LN
Tel. Mexborough 588309 (home); Mexborough 58517 (work)

WATTS, Martin
Worsborough Mill, Worsborough, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 5LJ
Tel. Barnsley 203961 (home)

Changes of Address

From October 20th. the address of S.M.G. Secretary, Peter Dolman, will be:
11, Bluebell Grove, Needham Market, IPSWICH IP6 8JH

(A 'phone number for this address will be given in the next Newsletter)

Viv Harvey's new address is: 7, Temple Road, Stowmarket IP14 1AX

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