

SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter Number 22

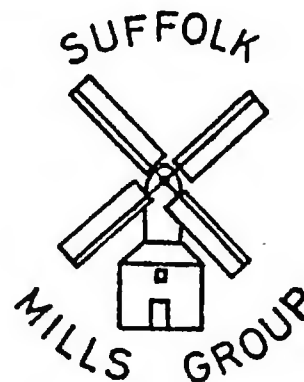
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SECRETARY:

Peter Dolman
11 Bluebell Grove
Needham Market
IPSWICH IP6 8JH

EDITOR:

Mark Barnard
41 Melbourne Road
IPSWICH IP4 5PP



Several Members have mentioned to me that they were indeed puzzled by the 'Puzzle' which appeared on page 7 of the last Newsletter, probably because I forgot to type in the answer on the last page as promised! With apologies for this lapse, I will give you the answer here and now: the picture shows the upright shaft, wallower and great spur wheel from the derelict tower mill known as Reed Mill at Kingston, some five miles south-east of Canterbury. This machinery is now outside Wimbledon Common mill in Surrey, which is where the photograph was taken.

Talking of puzzles, this issue of the Newsletter contains our annual prize crossword which I hope will result in a good number of correct entries. The winners will be drawn at our public meeting in February (see 'Events') which is the only event until the advent of Spring.

At present I am getting rather short of material for future Newsletters, which is partly why this issue was delayed. I would greatly appreciate any items - large or small - which you may care to submit for publication.

I hope all Members had an enjoyable Christmas holiday and on behalf of the Committee I convey my best wishes for 1982.

Mark Barnard

ALDRIDGE FAMILY MEMORIES CLAUDE ALDRIDGE

You could say I've been in quite a few mills in my lifetime. I've worked in practically every type of mill there is - post mill; tower mill; watermill driven by waterwheel and driven by turbine; mills driven by suction gas, steam, diesel engine (vertical and horizontal) and also electricity. The Aldridge family has been connected with mills and milling for donkey's years. My father and grandfather, uncles and great uncles had windmills, one man businesses mostly, in various places in north Suffolk and south Norfolk, and I've got various photographs of the mills they had over the years. My grandfather Walter Aldridge had Walpole post mill off and on for nearly 40 years between 1866 and 1901, and then he and his son Frederick had St Michael South Elmham post mill from 1901 until the 1950's. I lived and worked with my Uncle Fred at South Elmham St. Michael from 1920 to 1930 and worked the mill all hours night and day and thoroughly enjoyed it.

My grandfather left Walpole at various times and hired mills in other places. For a short time he worked Bungay Little Mill where my father was born in 1875. He also hired a post mill at Harleston, which stood between Harleston and Redenhall church, but he couldn't get enough trade there so to help out he used to cart maize from Harleston station and grind it for Weybread watermill in the summer time

when they were short of water. After a spell at Weston mill near Beccles he went back to Walpole and was there until 1901. In that time he saw two windshafts fitted, which is rather unique. The first windshaft was wooden and it fretted and the poll got loose so a new iron one was put in round about 1860 by Whitmore and Binyon. This went until about 1883 when it broke clean in half about a foot from the headwheel while the mill was working. The sails struck the piers, the headwheel jammed and the tail section fell across the stone floor but that was the only damage. Millwright Simon Nunn got the two pieces into position and bolted a collar on and tightened it up with wedges. This went for two or three years but was not a success as they could never keep it tight so Martins of Beccles put in a new iron shaft. I've

heard my dad say that the whole job was done in just over a week, and the actual time taken to get the new shaft in from the moment it left the ground until it was through the two wheels and in the bearings was twenty minutes.

Walpole mill during my grandfather's time was open trestle, with no wind tackle (fantail), and during the early part of his time had spring sails. When he left in 1901 his oldest son Walter took over. He had a roundhouse built and fitted a wind tackle somewhere about 1902 or 1903. Walter carried on until 1910 when he went to Huntingfield mill, which he worked until he died in 1927. The next miller at Walpole was Barry Buckingham who worked it until he was called to war in 1914. The mill was shut up and left with all the vanes in the sails. Towards the end of the war the stairs and fly broke away in a gale and the mill just wallowed about quite helpless until the winter of 1919 when she got caught full tail-winded in a strong south-west gale. The sails closed and she went round backwards at a terrific rate for some time. Finally the post snapped off and the whole lot capsized. I went over and saw the wreckage with my dad, and quite a heap of wreckage it was. One pair of stones turned completely upside down during the fall and were intact, the bedstone at the top and the spindle and toe sticking up in the air. That was the end of Walpole post mill.

Two of my great uncles, John and Adam Aldridge, started up in business at Ilketshall St. Lawrence mill. She was a very low brick tower - the sails swung within a foot of the ground. I never remembered this mill in working order and the shell which remains has stood derelict for some 50 years. After a few years



Walpole post mill c.1910

my brothers dissolved partnership and Adam went to the post mill at Bramfield and John went to Ilketshall St. Andrew to work the two post mills which stood in one yard. That was in 1880 or thereabouts. Both these mills blew down at the same time in a March gale while my uncle and his man were having tea. The house must have been some way from the mills because no-one heard them blow down, and they never knew until they came out from tea that the mills were down! After this John Aldridge went to Middleton post mill and then to St. James South Elmham, where he worked the post mill for several years before he retired. St. James mill was shut down in 1921 after the last miller Richard Mayston died. It stood until the summer of 1923 when it was sold and pulled down by Clarkes of Parham. After the mill was done away with somebody named Lines used to keep a lot of pigs in the roundhouse. We used to take them meal. I used to go up there every week and I believe I bought a bunch of pigs out of that roundhouse once.

I remember we bought a 4ft 6ins runner stone from St. James mill and 'muggins' cut it down to 3ft 6ins, or tried to! I leaned it up against the roundhouse wall, got a pair of compasses and cut it all round the burrs and started to chip them right through. It took me weeks as I was looking after the windmill (St. Michael South Elmham). It was alright for the top five burrs but when we had to move it round to chop the others of course it started to collapse. We had to lay it down flat so I could chop the rest out but it finished up somewhat pear-shaped. We had a six inch hoop made by the blacksmith. I know the first time I put it on it slipped over so I had to take it back. He'd already come to measure the stone. Eventually we got the hoop on and we used it for a bedstone in the roundhouse steam stones. It missed about three-quarters of an inch in one little place and overran about half an inch in the other, so every time you dressed the stones you had to knock this little bit it missed out of the way. We ran it for 5 or 6 years but, oh dear, what a job!

My father Alfred Aldridge was the only member of the family who didn't carry on his own business. He said there was nothing to be made from grinding grist and running windmills. The roller system was coming in when he left school and he wanted to get into that. He started at Smith and Girling's mill at Southwold, and from there he went to Youngmans of Wortham and then to Walter Green's at Castle Mills, Beccles. That finished him flour milling, and he went back to provender milling and got a job in Kent.

In 1901 my grandfather was still at Walpole. The oldest son Walter was a grown man and married and the youngest son Fred had just left school. There wasn't a living for all of them so grandfather decided to hire St. Michaels mill which became available. He worked it until 1911 and it was then taken over by Uncle Fred, who carried on a milling business there until 1953. It was a small post mill with two pairs of stones, head and tail. It worked by wind and steam until 1922 when a 15 h.p. Clayton and Shuttleworth semi-diesel oil engine was installed driving the pair of 3ft 6ins stones in the roundhouse. In 1927 when my Uncle Walter died the

double hurst and two pairs of 3ft 6ins stones in the steam mill at Huntingfield were bought and we moved them to St. Michaels and fitted them up in the roundhouse in place of the single pair. The oil engine drove these until milling ceased in 1953. The mill worked by wind until 1933 but did not do much after



St. Michael South Elmham mill c.1900

I left at the end of September 1930. The buck of the windmill was demolished in 1955.

I had ten years at St. Michaels mill, living in the mill house with my Uncle Fred. I remember one particular day very well. The mill yard was very small and when the mill stood at the south-west the steps were right in the centre of the yard and you couldn't back a cart or lorry up to the loading door without moving the steps. So the procedure was you went up to the steps and turned the fly and then tied it while you backed your lorry to load or unload. On this particular day my uncle and I were both out, and another miller's lorry came and brought us a load of middlings. They knew the procedure because they'd been there before and they got up the steps, turned the fly out of the way and tied it - there wasn't any wind - and then unloaded and went away and forgot it. We came home after dark and of course as there wasn't any wind we didn't notice it. I slept in a bedroom right near the mill because the mill was very close to the house, so close the bottom of the steps nearly touched the house in one place. In the night I was woken up by a strange noise - and that took something to wake me up in those days! After a minute or two I realised something was wrong. I opened the window and looked out and there was half a gale of wind blowing away from the north-west and the mill was straining and tugging and stood full south, and I could see the fly was tied. I whipped on a pair of trousers and shoes and flew down the stairs, out of the yard, up the mill steps and along the fly rail. I couldn't untie the rope because the strain of the fly on it had tightened the knot so much. So I cut the rope through and got my head back out of the way in a hurry. The fly went round like destruction and swung the mill round into the wind. All the time she'd been tugging and trying to go backwards. I went up and lifted the brake and let her draw off for a minute or two. Everything was alright so I left and locked up and went back to bed again, but that was a fairly close one!

I loved the windmill and always enjoyed working it. I've stood on the landing

on a stormy night, twelve or one o' clock in the morning and watched the sails go round and the clouds scud past the moon, happy as a lark. I never used to go to bed before two or three o' clock in the morning if the wind blew and we had plenty of corn to grind. In fact the more corn we had the better we liked it because we used to make use of the wind. We didn't have to cart the wind from Bungay station like we did coal for the steam engine, and we didn't have to cart water for it either, a quarter of a mile by water cart!

Editor's note This article was compiled from tapes of recent interviews with Claude Aldridge together with his notes about the Aldridge family mills.

SOME CARIBBEAN SUGAR MILLS NIALL ROBERTS

During the past four years my work has taken me to South Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean. Wherever I go I try to see something of the local economy outside the main towns, and that means having a look at - where there are any - wind and water-powered mills and pumps. So far I have seen windpumps for irrigation and for drainage in Thailand (and the 'manufacture' of hand querns in a street-side market in Nepal, where alas I did not see close up any of the horizontal-wheeled watermills), and quite a few wind-powered sugar mills in the Caribbean. In the Pacific (Tonga, Fiji and the Solomons) I have not yet seen any 'traditional' harnessing of wind or water power except for sailing canoes. I am due to return to Fiji in 1982 and I shall enquire how they crushed the sugar cane before the arrival of steam.

In the Caribbean I have now visited five of the islands and in four I have seen interesting examples of different stages in the development of wind-powered sugar mills. Externally these resemble, superficially, our own stone tower mills but there are some notable differences between the two kinds of mill. The sugar-mill towers are much more solidly built in order to stand up to hurricanes. For the same reason, these mills have no sail frames but only stocks - it was normal practice to unclamp and remove the frames outside the cane-crushing season so as to minimise the wind resistance of what remained in place.

Three other marked differences from European tower mills are the shape of the cap, the very long tailpole extending down well to the rear of the base of the tower, and the two or more very conspicuous arched openings in the tower itself.

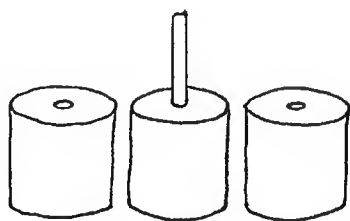
The caps are shingle-covered and conical but this conicality is modified to a greater or lesser degree (depending on the particular mill) by the hipped dormers that house the forward end of the windshaft and the anchorage of the upper end of the tailpole. Very few of the many towers still have a cap or have had their cap restored and, of those that do have a cap, the ones in Marie-Galante (a tiny island off Guadeloupe) are as just described i.e. with a clearly dominant cone, whilst in Barbados the restored Morgan Lewis Mill has the two 'dormers' forming one continuous hipped roof as wide as about one third of its length, with vertically truncated sections of a cone at each side to complete the roofing of the tower. This difference is typical of, respectively, 'French' and 'English' Caribbean mills:

see de La Garde & Perrichon (1978).

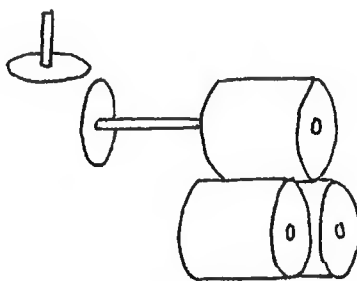
The tailpoles are so long that at least some consist of two or more timbers clamped together. This length serves both to give greater leverage for turning the cap into - or out of - the wind and also to allow free and safe access to the arched openings in the sides of the tower. Turning the sails out of the wind was the only way of stopping the mills from working (apart from deliberately overloading the crushing rolls with an extra large bundle of sugar cane) as these mills had no brakewheels!

Each tower has one tall narrow arched opening extending upwards about twenty feet above ground level. This was for introducing (and, if need be, for removing) the upright shaft. One might expect such an opening to weaken the structure of the tower but, as already mentioned, these towers are much more solidly built than most of those in Europe. Each tower also has at least two lower but much wider arched openings, one for feeding bundles of cane to the crushing rolls and another for removing the fibrous residue (bagasse). The raw sugar was carried away from a collecting tank beneath the rolls by means of an open wooden channel leading to the nearby 'sugar factory'. None of the channelling now remains but one does come across old copper evaporating pans.

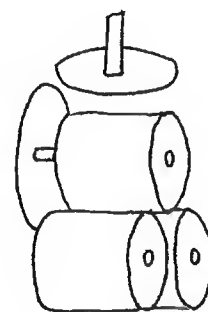
The crushing rolls consisted of three cylinders and in the earliest arrangement these were pivoted vertically one beside the other in a straight line and linked together by gear teeth at the upper end of each. There is a fine example of this arrangement at the Murat mill in Marie-Galante, with the centre roll mounted on the lower end of the upright shaft. This is a logical adaptation of the drive in the animal-powered sugar mills in which the central roll was driven by horses or cattle walking around the crushing unit. Invention of this type of mill is attributed to Pietro Speciale, Prefect of Sicily, in 1449 (Wailles, 1970). The cane had to be fed first in one direction through the rolls and then in the other, all by hand, and nasty accidents to slaves were not unknown in the Caribbean (de La Garde & Perrichon, 1978).



Murat (Marie-Galante)



Winthorpes (Antigua)
Morgan Lewis (Barbados)



Gosier (Guadeloupe)

Alternative drive arrangements for rolls in sugar mills

Three hundred years later, in 1754, John Smeaton apparently designed but did not actually construct a mill with three horizontal rolls so placed that the driven roll was centrally above the other two and, as before, geared to them. With this arrangement the cane could be fed by gravity down a slope, and more evenly, to the two pairs of rolls in one direction. It seems that such a mill was not in fact built until forty years later, and because of the additional ground space needed for the rolls and for the bevel gearing required at the base of the upright shaft, horizontal mills were usually placed outside the towers. One fine set of rolls of this type stands in its original position at the foot of the mill tower at Winthorpes in Antigua. The upper part of the tower has been concreted and serves as a water tower but pieces of gearing still lie on the ground inside and outside the tower. Another even more impressive and complete set of machinery may be seen at the restored Morgan Lewis Mill in Barbados.

A more compact design incorporates the bevel gearing that converts the vertical drive (in the upright shaft) into a horizontal drive (for the rolls) within the roll assembly. An example - perhaps the only surviving example - of this stands proudly in the grounds of the hotel Auberge de la Vieille Tour near Gosiers in Guadeloupe. The assembly is dated 'Nillus - Le Havre - 1835'. The tower has been embodied in the hotel and converted into a bar. A diagram of this and of the other drives to rolls will be found on the opposite page.

In these sugar mills the upright shaft is much the same as in European windmills but the relative sizes of the gearwheels carrying the drive from the windshaft to the upright shaft are very different. In a sugar mill the windshaft has only a small bevel gear at its tail end and as already noted has no brakewheel; the diameter of the wallower is correspondingly much greater than in European mills. Most sugar mills had four common sails though a five-arm 'coffin cross' was found in Barbados (Wailles, 1970) and a six-sailed mill has been recorded in Marie-Galante (Barbotin, 1967).

There are sugar mill remains, some machinery and a few restored mills in these and other islands of the Caribbean that I have not so far visited. In the more mountainous islands that grew sugar cane in their flatter areas, water power was used for crushing the cane, though in Jamaica one very solidly built empty tower about six feet thick at its base remains at Harthill, near Annotto Bay on the north coast. No trace of machinery could be found. Anyone who has half an opportunity of visiting some of these Caribbean sugar mills should make a point of seeing them. They are fascinating and impressive monuments to an earlier age.

References

- Barbotin, Maurice 'Les Moulins de Marie-Galante' Bulletin de la Société de la Guadeloupe, No.7, 1967.
- de La Garde, Jacques & Perrichon, Anna 'Moulins Français d'Amerique' in 'Les Moulins de France - Revue des Associations Protectrices des Moulins' (Paris) No.4, 1978.
- Wailles, Rex 'Windmills and Steam Power in Barbados' Trans. Newcomen Society, Vol. XLII, 1969-70.

BOOK REVIEW MARK BARNARD

"WINDMILLS AND WATERMILLS OPEN TO VIEW" Compiled by Jenny West. Published by the Wind and Watermill Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings; 1981. Price £1.

This well-produced 48-page A5 format guide is a vast improvement on the loose-leaf A4 version of 'Mills Open' previously available, and the quality of production should appeal to members of the public, at whom it is mainly aimed. Nearly 200 mills are listed (10 in Suffolk), together with a brief description, grid reference and opening details. A sack of flour symbol is added by the entry if flour is produced (but why hasn't Over mill got one?). There are also a few photographs to whet the appetite further. The aim has been to include only those mills which are readily accessible to the public at specific times, but such a distinction must to some extent be an arbitrary one. I hope this booklet sells well, not only because of the need to 'spread the word', but because like any such topographical guide in two or three years it will be badly in need of revision.

VANISHED MILLS PETER DOLMAN

THURSTON MILL

Thurston mill stood on an old-established site, on a slight mound in Mill Lane (at Grid Ref. 916662). A mill is apparently shown here on a map of 1689, although Kirby omits it from his 1736 survey. Hodskinson shows the mill in c.1780, and most maps thereafter show it. Those that don't are almost certainly in error. Local tradition says that it originally stood at Pakenham and was moved to an existing site at Thurston in about 1750. In 1767 it was owned by Edmund Tyrell and occupied by Jeremiah Dister; E. Pearl is listed as miller

in the 1840's and 1850's, W.F. Brown in 1858 and Alfred & William Smith from 1868 until 1908. Subsequent directories fail to list a miller although the mill continued to work until about 1934. It stood in good condition until the mid 1940's, when a combination of decay and gradual demolition began to take its toll. By 1950 the sails had been taken off and the roof was full of holes. The owners completely demolished it in 1953-4 and bulldozed the mound level with the surrounding land. Nothing at all remains as a result.



Thurston mill in the 1920's

It was a small, narrow post mill, originally open trestle but later with

(continued on p.10)

PRIZE CROSSWORD

Compiled by MARK BARNARD
WIN SIX CAMBRIDGESHIRE WINDMILLS!!

For this, our fifth prize crossword, we are offering as first prize a splendid set of six cork-backed table mats featuring colour illustrations of windmills in the Cambridge area. The mats measure 11½" x 8½" (dinner plate size) and show the mills at Gt. Gransden (before restoration), Swaffham Prior (tower mill), Gt. Chishill, Willingham, Madingley and Duloe Mill, Eaton Socon.

This year for the first time there is also a prize for the runner-up, a set of six coasters featuring the same windmill designs as the table mats.

All the clues in the crossword can be connected in some way or other with mills and milling, and though there are no obscure technical terms or expressions you'll have to cope with a few anagrams!

To enter the competition simply fill in the copy of the crossword provided at the end of the Newsletter. The copy below can be retained for your own reference. Entries should be sent to the Editor (address on p.1) and must arrive by first post on Saturday 27th February 1982, the day of S.M.G.'s winter public meeting. The names of the winner and runner-up will be drawn by a member of the audience during the meeting.

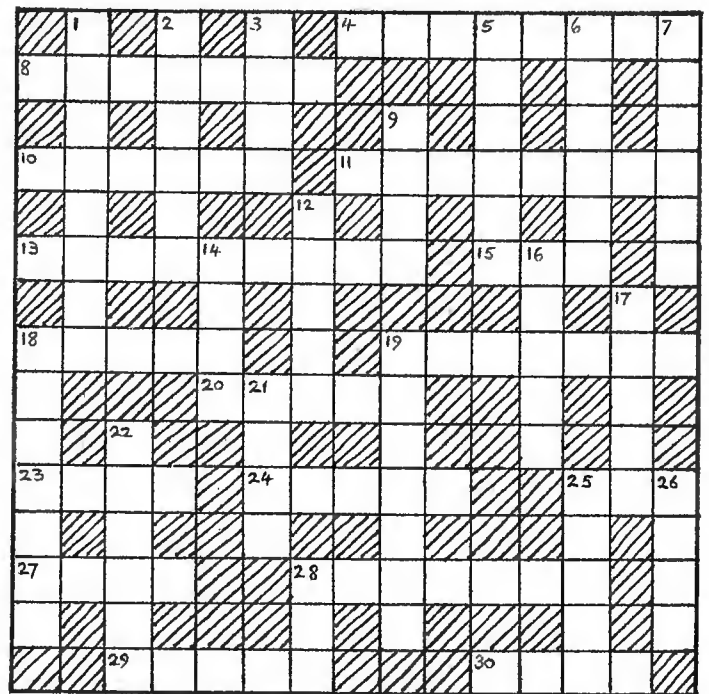
The competition is open to all Members of Suffolk Mills Group. The names of the prize winners will be published in the next Newsletter, together with the solution.

CLUES ACROSS

4. Found on top of some towers (4,4)
8. The finest remaining watermill on the River Gipping (7)
10. See 3 Down
11. Conveys water to the wheel (7)
13. A dear style of lever? (9)
15. Governor that stays behind? (3)
18. A few mills still do (5)
19. See 30 Across
20. Constituent of most composition stones (5)
23. (& 16 Down) Hopper warning! (4,5)
24. (& 25 Down) Windmill author of the 1930's (5,5)
25. Site for a drainage mill (3)
27. Mill stream (4)
28. Found below the spouts (4,3)
29. A sail in some parts (5)
30. (& 19 Across) Eighteenth century mill innovator (4,7)

CLUES DOWN

1. Takes stocks (8)
2. Water regulator (6)
3. (& 10 Across) Crowns the cap? (4,6)
5. "It makes more noise than anything else in the mill" (Rex Wailes) (6)
6. Longitudinal member of sailframe (6)
7. Holds the water (on a waterwheel, naturally!) (6)
9. The flow of grain into the stones (4)
12. Might be found in the hopper (5)
14. Workable Cambridgeshire watermill (4)
16. See 23 Across
17. Animal above the stones (5)
18. Devices for keeping runner stones level (7)
19. Suffolk post mill (7)
21. 18 Down fit into this (4)
22. So flat on a wooden wheel! (6)
25. See 24 Across
26. Always just behind 1 Down! (4)
28. Essential aid to mill hunting (3)



a single-storey flint roundhouse built around the brick piers, with boarded roof, the whole being tarred. The buck was extended about 2ft. at the tail, had a slight flared 'petticoat' to cover the roundhouse and had a small porch cover. The tailpole had been removed entirely and an eight-bladed fantail mounted above the steps, which unusually drove independently down each fly post to the two wheels. A ladder was provided on the right hand fly post for maintenance. Power latterly came from four double shuttered clockwise patent sails, once painted red, carried on an iron windshaft. The striking wheel was inside the buck. There were two pairs of stones, driven by head and tail wheels. The bevelled stone nuts were iron. The governors to the head stones were unusual in that the collar was set above the weights. The bell alarm was particularly neat (see 'Bell Alarms and Sack Hoists in Windmills' by Rex Wailes; T.N.S. Vol. XLV). A dresser was mounted in the tail, driven by belt from a wooden cross shaft and skew gear off the brakewheel. The brake was of iron and the sack hoist was driven from a pulley in front of the tail wheel.

MILL NEWS

SHOTTISHAM WATERMILL

This attractive little mill building was the subject of a planning application for house conversion made by Norwich architects Fielden and Mawson on behalf of the new owners, Brisite Ltd. of Luton. S.M.G. did not object as the mill was gutted many years ago and the stream permanently diverted. The plans show that the lucam (now missing) will be reconstructed and good clay tiles will replace the present asbestos sheet roof covering. We wrote to Brisite Ltd. to enquire if we might remove the one remaining piece of machinery, a grain cleaner. So far we have not heard from them but a recent article in the 'East Anglian Daily Times' tells us that Alan Mc Burnie, the director of Brisite is to live there. He told the Press that if it was not possible to keep the machine in the mill he would consider giving it to S.M.G. for use at Pakenham watermill.

Derelict mill buildings are regarded as eyesores by most local people yet at Shottisham, despite a hideous garage and other misguided work, the group of buildings still has a rare distinction about it. This partly comes from the contrast between mill building and house, a building for working in and a building for living in, rather like a well-run farm. Once everything becomes living accommodation this contrast is lost and a large, rather embarrassed looking house results, embarrassed because somehow it lacks the confident look of a house of any age built to this size, and its working building origin can never be disguised. Architects Fielden and Mawson will ensure a high standard of design and workmanship at Shottisham and will hopefully avoid the worst features of house conversion. Whenever I see a converted wind or watermill it brings to mind the notes on Aldeburgh mill in that weird but beautifully-

produced book by Brangwyn and Preston published in 1923. They found the converted mill 'thoroughly unctuous' and likened it to 'a pirate in a girl's chemise'. Converted mills look awkward because they have lost their original simple dignity and power, yet have never quite succeeded in their new role as large houses. (C.H.)

PROGRESS AT THELNETHAM

Since the work-in the remaining work to the stone floor has been completed apart from final tidying up of details. The stone furniture was put back over the holes where the stones should be and the mill was thoroughly swept out (which took two days!) in readiness for the open day on October 25th. This was attended by around 70 people, both S.M.G. Members and local residents interested in seeing our work.

A few weeks after the open day we suffered another break-in, and although nothing of immediate value was stolen the intruders did help themselves to part of the back wall of our workshop! This is not quite so stupid as it sounds for built into the old shed were two rather nice old enamel advertising signs, for 'Pratt's Motor Spirit' and 'Cadbury's Milk Chocolate', only visible from inside the building. Security has been a problem - we've had four break-ins so far - so we are now taking steps to make the premises more secure. A pity in a way, because money spent on this is not spent on restoring the mill.

On a happier note, we have recently received further payments of grants from the Historic Buildings Council and St. Edmundsbury Borough Council for work carried out so far, and very welcome donations from Claude Aldridge and Don Porter. Construction of the curb started just after Christmas at premises at Trimley near Felixstowe, and a new bin to dust floor ladder has been made. Various other small projects are also under way.

The 1982 work-in will again be split into two separate weeks at the end of July and August respectively. Details of the work to be tackled will be given in subsequent Newsletters, and also in the annual report which will be distributed to all those who helped in 1981. Needless to say, we would be delighted to hear from Members who think they'll be able to give some time at the work-in again this year.

O.K. then, here are the dates you've all been waiting for!

1982 WORK-IN: Saturday July 24th. - Sunday August 1st. and
Saturday August 21st. - Sunday August 29th.

NEW DIRECTOR AT ABBOT'S HALL MUSEUM

We are pleased to hear that the Museum of East Anglian Life at Stowmarket has appointed Rob Shorland-Ball as full time director to oversee its development. Rob is well-known to mill enthusiasts, having been curator of Worsborough mill near Barnsley a few years ago. He is on the Wind and Watermill Section Committee of the S.P.A.B. and is the editor of the Section's newsletter. We look forward to seeing him in Suffolk and hope that he will take an active part in S.M.G. once he has settled in.

BUTTRUM'S MILL, WOODERIDGE

Work has been progressing steadily at the mill, which is being restored for the County Council by Millwrights International Ltd. of Oxfordshire, under the supervision of David Bissonnet, an architect in private practice. The new cap frame, of best oak and pitchpine, has been very well built and has had the old cap roof re-fitted as this was thought fit enough for re-use (see photograph opposite). A new fantail has been built, with new shafts and gears, not entirely to the original layout unfortunately but as good a modern compromise as could be attained. I have my doubts about the lasting ability of the outside gearing which is of fine pitch, but if well looked after it should prove satisfactory.



The lifting of the cap onto the mill has been delayed because of the need for additional work to the curb, as a brief inspection of this revealed that several track sections were broken and the woodwork below them had patches of rot and beetle attack. Thus, while it was originally intended to do no more than clean and paint the ironwork, it has now been decided to replace all the curb (wood and iron). Had I not pointed out the condition of the curb I assume the cap would have been put back on the old curb, which could not have supported a turning cap for long. One wonders what is the future of preserved mills in this country if something as fundamental as a tower mill curb is not investigated fully before embarking on an expensive and supposedly thorough overhaul.

The new cap will be lifted into place early in 1982 so local Members may like to keep their eyes on the mill. (P.D.)

GALE DAMAGE AT DRINKSTONE

Rather like old batteries, faults in windmills are soon found once winter gets to work on them. Weeks of wet days soften up timbers ready for gales to tear at them. We knew that the fly blades at Drinkstone were rotten in places but hoped they would survive a few more years. In November a sudden change of wind direction during a storm turned the fly at great speed. The considerable centrifugal force caused the boards of two of the blades to slip an inch or two down the slots in the spokes. They hit a cross brace and one spoke snapped

at the base of the slot and the blade was blown horizontally and with great force into the hedge. Other blades were luckier as the cross brace removed the edges of the blades, leaving the spokes undamaged. The mill was kept turning to wind by removing the good blade opposite the broken one, leaving four of the original six blades (see photograph opposite). This trick was often used in the old days after storm damage or when a blade was removed for repair. We will make a new blade this winter and fit it in the summer. The mill really needs six new blades but the cost of timber for an average 12ft. diameter six-blade fly now runs into hundreds of pounds. The winding gear for Drinkstone came from Barley Green post mill at Stradbroke so those fly blades could have been turning for 100 years before being dismantled in 1941 when they were bought by Wilfred Clover. They may well have to see service in three centuries!



S.M.G. SOCIAL EVENING

This was attended by 23 Members and friends, some travelling considerable distances to get there. Lots of slides were shown, including virtually all those of the Thelnetham work-in. Other slides which stuck in the memory were a set by John Spencer on Irish mills (including interesting shots of Ballycopeland mill with its roller-reefing sails), some splendid detail shots of Stodmarsh and Iwade wind-pumps in Kent from Alan Wallis and a selection of Dutch mills from Peter Dolman and Mark Barnard. The evening was complimented by buffet style food and drink, made all the more welcome by the fact that we forgot to charge for it! We expect to hold another social evening next autumn.

S.M.G. WINDOW DISPLAY

For the previous two years we have advertised our winter public meeting with a window display at William and Glynn's bank in the Buttermarket, Ipswich. In February we will again be using the bank window for this purpose, when the centre-piece will be a large model windmill, built by the late Wilfred Clover of Drinkstone mills. Although meant to be a high quality miller's garden model rather than an accurate representation of any particular mill, the seven foot span of the shuttered sails should catch people's attention, especially as we hope they will be turning with the aid of a small electric motor! Don't miss it!

While on the subject of publicity, we have also booked space for a small display in the Ipswich central library during June, 1982. The theme of this is likely to be our work at Thelnetham.

MORE WINDMILL STAMPS

Since publishing details of the windmill stamps issued by the U.S.A. (Newsletter 17) a surprisingly large number of mill stamps have come to our attention, including quite a few recent issues. The latest issue is from East Germany who on November 10th. issued four stamps depicting windmills at Dabel, Schwerin; Pahrenz, Dresden; Dresden-Gohlis and Ballstädt, Erfurt. I wonder how many more windmills there are in East Germany?

EVENTS

S.M.G. PUBLIC MEETING: 'MILLWRIGHTING'; SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27th. 1982 at 7.30 pm., at IPSWICH TOWN HALL

The theme of this winter's public meeting is 'millwrighting'. The principal speaker is John Lawn, the well-known millwright from Caston mill in Norfolk, who is known to give a very lively talk, illustrated with slides of his own work and possibly other people's as well. There will also be a contribution from Chris Hullcoop on the amateur work carried out in Suffolk over the years, mainly by himself, and a brief report on S.M.G.'s activities in the past year. Refreshments will be available and as usual admission is free.

Members living in Suffolk and adjacent areas will receive with this Newsletter a poster advertising the meeting, which we would be grateful if they could display in a prominent position (e.g. at work).

Other Dates

- 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
- May 9th 1982 National Mills Day (see next Newsletter)

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S.M.G. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES SINCE NEWSLETTER 21

New Member:

ALDRIDGE, Claude E.
'Meadowside', Bardwell Road, Barningham, Bury St. Edmunds
Tel. Coney Weston 507

Change of Address:

John Salmon, 'Orchards', 55, High Street, Sproughton, Ipswich IP8 3AQ
S.M.G. Secretary Peter Dolman's new 'phone number is Needham Market 721077.

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CROSSWORD ENTRY FORM

To enter the Crossword Competition on page 9, please fill in the copy below together with your name and address and return this page to the Editor, Mark Barnard, 41, Melbourne Road, Ipswich IP4 5PP.

Entries must be received by first post on Saturday 27th. February 1982, as the draw will be made on that day!

The names of the winners will appear in the next Newsletter, together with the solution.

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

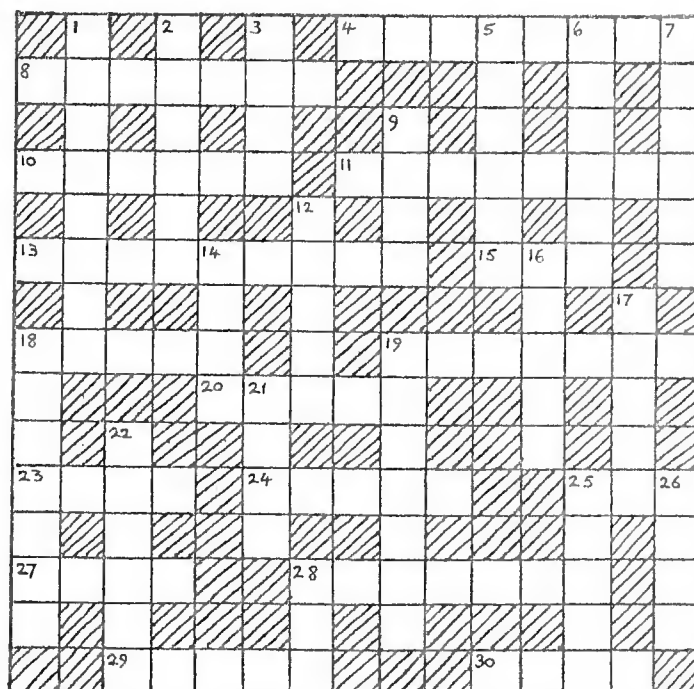
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CLUES ACROSS

4. Found on top of some towers (4,4)
8. The finest remaining watermill on the River Gipping (7)
10. See 3 Down
11. Conveys water to the wheel (7)
13. A dear style of lever? (9)
15. Governor that stays behind? (3)
18. A few mills still do (5)
19. See 30 Across
20. Constituent of most composition stones (5)
23. (& 16 Down) Hopper warning! (4,5)
24. (& 25 Down) Windmill author of the 1930's (5,5)
25. Site for a drainage mill (3)
27. Mill stream (4)
28. Found below the spouts (4,3)
29. A sail in some parts (5)
30. (& 19 Across) Eighteenth century mill innovator (4,7)

CLUES DOWN

1. Takes stocks (8)
2. Water regulator (6)
3. (& 10 Across) Crowns the cap? (4,6)
5. "It makes more noise than anything else in the mill" (Rex Wailes) (6)
6. Longitudinal member of sailframe (6)
7. Holds the water (on a waterwheel, naturally!) (6)
9. The flow of grain into the stones (4)
12. Might be found in the hopper (5)



14. Workable Cambridgeshire watermill (4)
16. See 23 Across
17. Animal above the stones (5)
18. Devices for keeping runner stones level (7)
19. Suffolk post mill (7)
21. 18 Down fit into this (4)
22. So flat on a wooden wheel! (6)
25. See 24 Across
26. Always just behind 1 Down! (4)
28. Essential aid to mill hunting (3)