

SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter Number 34

NOVEMBER 1985

SECRETARY:

John Snowdon Lark Rise Hemley WOODBRIDGE

EDITOR:

Mark Barnard 41, Melbourne Road IPSWICH



The summer months have seen the successful completion of another two weeks full-time work at Thelnetham, the highlight of which was the hoisting of the sails on August 20th.. By the following weekend many of the shutters had been installed and the sails turned for the first time, which provides a good indication of how fast the work progressed. Repair work is also continuing at Drinkstone. There were successful visits to the watermills at Holbrook and Euston, although the attendance at the A.G.M. in June was rather disappointing.

Tentative plans are already being made for next year's work-ins; further details appear inside. It would be nice to be able to publicise the Group better next year, and perhaps arrange more events. In order to be able to do this we badly need to bolster the S.M.G. committee and spread the work more evenly. I hope we are soon successful in achieving this.

I am very short of material for future Newsletters. Now that the dark winter evenings are here, how about sitting down and writing that article which you've been meaning to do (yes?) but haven't got round to!

Mark Barnard

MILL MEMORIES (1) CLAUDE ALDRIDGE

A few years ago we published an article by Claude Aldridge about his well-known milling family and the time he worked the post mill at South Elmham St. Michael in the 1920's. In this, the first of a two-part article, Claude recounts some more of his milling days and the stories that have come his way.

I remember the tower of Beccles mill standing but I don't remember any sails on of course. I've heard my father say his father went to see the miller - I believe it was old Hadingham - on some sort of business. This would be before the turn of the century. He met him in the office and there was a nice breeze - not a strong wind - and he happened to say to the miller 'I suppose you're driving a couple of pairs this morning?'. 'Oh, four' he replied. Grandfather thought 'that's a fairly tall 'un with this wind'. Anyway, after they'd finished the business they went up into the mill and they were running four pairs of stones, on wheat. Mind you, on wheat they weren't loaded like they are grist grinding. She had some fairly hefty sails - they were 12-yard sails. They swung over the top of a chimney stack for an engine. She was a fair mill, but an old man killer, going up and down nine floors!

When old Robinson gave up Darsham post mill in about 1921 I got onto my father

to see if he could buy it. I knew he'd got somebody who might be willing to help him with a bit of finance. He went to look round it and took me over. I thought to myself 'this is just the job'; I was only 15 at the time. Anyway, the man that father approached said no. If it hadn't been a windmill - if it had been a steam mill in the flour trade he would have considered it, but not a windmill as they were obsolete. So that was that. Darsham was a nice little mill; there was an extra pair of stones on the lower floor on a hurst in the head as well as the two up above. I've heard my father say that old Robinson or his grandfather put in a new windshaft with a 22" neck. They reckoned that it would go a lot easier but I don't think it ever did - just imagine all the friction.

When my father packed up flour milling he worked at Wye mill in Kent. He went down there in 1922 or 1923. It had a waterwheel and three pairs of stones and then they added a steam mill with a 25-horse Clayton engine and three pairs of stones for making Sussex ground oats. When I first went there they had the old iron waterwheel but we were always having to shut down to repair it. I said to the governor 'Why can't we use that wheel and stones to help us out?'. He said 'You can't use that as it shakes the mill down'. He was new there as well - he'd only come a month before me. Anyhow we got into a bit of a muddle and I asked to have a go at the stones and see if I could get the wheel to work. We were working 24 hours a day, and I was working 12-hour shifts, days or nights. It was as much as we could do to keep up with it. Anyway, I had a go at it. I pulled a pair of stones up and of course I knew what the trouble was as soon as I pulled them up - you could wiggle the neck bearing about. I never saw such a combination of stones in my life - the runner stone was emery composite grit and the bedstone was a Peak; you can't imagine a worst combination. Anyhow I dressed the stones and I put the Peak furrows in about $\frac{5}{8}$ " deep because I knew they wouldn't last five minutes with an emery runner on them. I packed the neck up, adjusted up the bearings on the pitwheel shaft and the wallower and got the thing going. While it was running I got a lead pencil and stood it on the bearers of the stones and it stood upright. I called the governor to come and have a look - his eyes popped and he couldn't believe it. I said 'That'll prove if there's anything vibrating or not if a pencil will stay put'. We ran that old waterwheel like that until after we put the turbine in.

When I took Barningham mill just after the last war it was an absolute wreck. The valuer of the previous owner valued it up and he put on the bottom 'Owing to the obsolete and derelict condition of the machinery and plant and the derelict condition of all the buildings we think the following is a fair estimate...'. If your own valuer will say that your plant is obsolete and your buildings are derelict, that's rough! There were two schools of thought when I went to Barningham mill. One was I was cruel to bring my wife away from a

good house with every convenience to take her to that dump - no water, no electricity, no sanitation, an absolute ruin. The other school of thought said I wanted locking up in the looney bin because there was something wrong with me! When they did my books the first year I told the accountant I reckoned that every penny I earned for 15 years would have to be ploughed back before the mill would be how I wanted it. I put every ha'penny back - in fact they told me one year I couldn't live on the money I'd drawn and I said I can because I'm here to prove it!

The 'new mill' at Barningham was built in 1826 at what had been a malting. Until that time the milling had been done on two old windmills which stood on the opposite side of the road. The new

mill had a condensing factory beam engine driving five pairs of stones, four for making flour and one pair of grist stones. Fisons had it until 1868 when they sold out to Walter Lingwood, who moved from Bardwell watermill. In 1895 he put in a Robinson 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -sack roller plant and packed up stone milling. The beam engine drove this roller plant until 1931 when it was taken out and crated up by a millwright from Garboldisham - Stanley Nunn I think his name was - and sent to a museum in America.

In 1894 the 'Miller's Gazette and Corn Trades Journal' described Barningham Roller Flour Mills as having '... 2 break rolls and 3 smooth rolls the rolls



Barningham steam mill (from an old postcard)



Claude Aldridge outside the post mill at St. Michael South Elmham in 1927

being placed on a slightly raised platform on the ground floor and the purifying and dressing machinery ... on the floor above. The system is one of 4 breaks and 6 reductions, two 7"x18" double roller mills performing the breaks and 3 6"x18" mills the reductions. The five pairs of stones existing in the mill are left untouched...'.

When I went there in 1948 they'd been walking round these five pairs of stones for over 50 years and I hauled the lot out. She had a big spurwheel and she drove equal gears onto a shaft which went underneath these five pairs of stones; the spur gear was about 30" diameter and about 6" wide and the shaft was 5" diameter. I had it cut out with acetylene cutters. It had big - I suppose about 5ft. - bevels which drove the stones. When they put the roller plant in they raised the bottom floor and made what they called a hurst floor - like they used to in a lot of roller mills - and excavated down about a yard further so they got about five or six feet between the actual floor and the bottom to put the elevator pits in to take the spouts down. They put a lineshaft in there and drove it off a 7ft. diameter pulley on this old steam shaft, driving onto an 18" or 2ft. split pulley with a 7" belt. I dismantled all this when I went there and sold 7 tons of scrap iron from it. Some of the millstones went away to a firm in London to break up and make into emery grit for emery composition stones.

IN SEARCH OF 'LITTLE GIANTS' KEN & JENNY READ

For those without previous knowledge of this subject, 'Little Giants' are not figments of the imagination after a night out with a wallower, nor are they in the same category as pink elephants, leprechauns, gnomes or other creatures of the inebriated world. Water turbines manufactured by J.C. Wilson & Co., Picton, Ontario, Canada were called 'Little Giant' turbines. They were extensively imported into this country and other parts of the world from Canada in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Possibly the practice of mixing hard Canadian wheat with soft English wheat to make bread flour may have promoted the turbine imports.

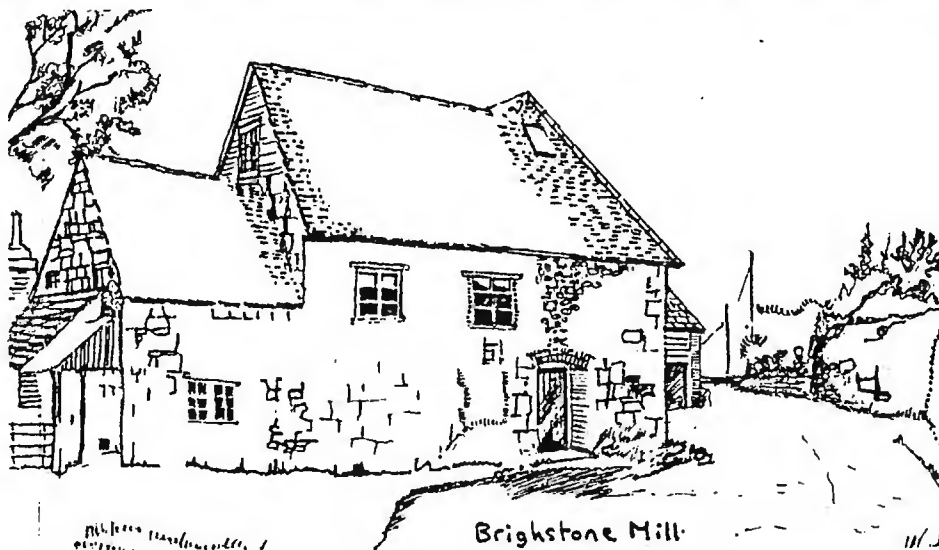
After making the initial discoveries about Holbrook mill turbine (see Newsletter 28) it was difficult to appreciate one isolated example and to make objective judgements about size, condition, design quality and position. To relieve the frustration of not being able to commence restoration immediately because of more pressing restoration needs of the mill fabric, an interest in finding other turbine installations developed.

Following the S.M.G. visit to Cranfield's mill in Ipswich on a Friday evening in September 1982 we had arranged to spend a long weekend on the Isle of Wight, and we drove to Portsmouth late that evening to catch the midnight ferry. Whilst on the island we made the usual visits to Calbourne, Bembridge

and Yafford mills to inspect the conservation effort and decide what to do or what not to do. A chance reference in the guide book of Yafford mentioned Brighstone mill, the next downstream, reported to be still working under the power of a turbine to grind animal food for a local farm, and probably the only mill on the island in original working use. This was too good an opportunity to miss so we set off in search of it. Having located the building we enquired of some locals who was the owner of the mill, and they directed us to a Mr. Fisk at Chilton Farmhouse.

We contacted the owner and he allowed us into the mill, but he was rather surprised when I asked to climb down a 10ft. ladder into a watery turbine pit with only a torch to light the way. However the climb was rewarding, for at the bottom was a 15"-18" diameter turbine of remarkable similarity to the one at Holbrook. No positive identification was possible but we believe it to be a Little Giant turbine driven by a 15 to 20 foot head and now used only to drive a mixer. It was originally installed in 1905 and powered three pairs of stones but two pairs were removed in 1940 and the last remaining pair is now electrically driven. Another point of interest in the mill was a cast iron hurst frame on brick supports, inscribed 'Armfield & Co, Ringwood'. This is not the first time we have had occasion to associate the name of Armfield & Co with 'Little Giant' turbines, so perhaps that company was involved with importing these turbines?

A reference on page 102 of Rex Wailes Newcomen Society paper 'Suffolk Watermills' to a Little Giant turbine at Raydon mill further excited our curiosity and one afternoon whilst in the area this curiosity inspired a visit to the mill. The Little Giant at Raydon is external to the mill and is about 36" in diameter. According to our Canadian information this is one of the largest sizes to be manufactured. It has a clockwise rotation similar to the installation at Brighstone, whereas Holbrook revolves anti-clockwise. Rotation was probably varied to suit the site conditions. The Raydon turbine is similar in every detail to the Holbrook installation but it is supplied with about 4ft. head of water. Unfortunately it is silted up and not working although ample water supply is available.



Brighstone Mill

Watching the turbine at Brighstone mill in operation has further inspired us for the restoration of our own one in the not too distant future. We are still in contact with Dr. A.D. Misener of Picton, Ontario, who gave us vital information about the 'Little Giant' turbines, and we are sending him our various S.M.G. articles in order to increase the information contained in Picton library on their world-wide product of the last century.

A.G.M. REPORT

Our 1985 A.G.M. was held on June 2nd at Buttrum's Mill, Woodbridge, by kind permission of the owner, Martin Whitworth. It was a fine sunny morning and we were welcomed by the sight of turning sails. 14 Members and friends were present.

John Snowdon, the Secretary, reported that membership of the Group was more or less static at around 136. He had organised computer printing of address labels and reminder letters. Editor Mark Barnard said there had been no real problems with Newsletter production, which was currently three issues a year. He was working on an improved membership leaflet. The accounts, presented by treasurer Brian Flint, showed a welcome rise in subscription income over the previous year and a healthy building society balance of over £1,400. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Peter Dolman and seconded by Roy Berry.

It was announced that Mike Organ had tendered his resignation from the Committee. This was reluctantly accepted, it being noted that he was willing to act as a consultant should a special need arise. Jon Sass and Eric Dymott had resigned from the Group.

All the officers were willing to serve for another year; the other Committee members - Peter Dolman, Rob Shorland-Ball and Des Codd - were also willing to continue; it was therefore proposed by Chris Wilson that the Committee be re-elected en bloc. This was seconded by Penny Paterson. Roy Berry indicated that he might like to join the Committee at a future date.

There was some discussion about the poor attendance at the meeting, the general feeling being that insufficient notice had been given. This was accepted. In future separate notification would be issued if the Newsletter was likely to be delayed. Publicity of S.M.G. was also discussed, including the possibility of a stand at next year's Suffolk Show.

The meeting concluded with an illustrated review of the past year's activities, including the boat trip to Holland, the work-ins at Thelnetham which saw the construction of the sails and laminated stocks, and the public meeting in February on the theme of milling. Afterwards there was an opportunity to look round Buttrum's Mill with its fine Whitmore machinery.

In the afternoon a visit was arranged to another Whitmore mill, at nearby Burgh, by kind permission of Major and Mrs. Sutor. This mill has, sadly, long been stripped of all its machinery.

VANISHED MILLS PETER DOLMAN

OCCOLD SMOCK MILL

In considering the history of Occold mill we must actually encompass three mills: the original Occold mill, Eye six-sail smock mill and the later Occold mill.

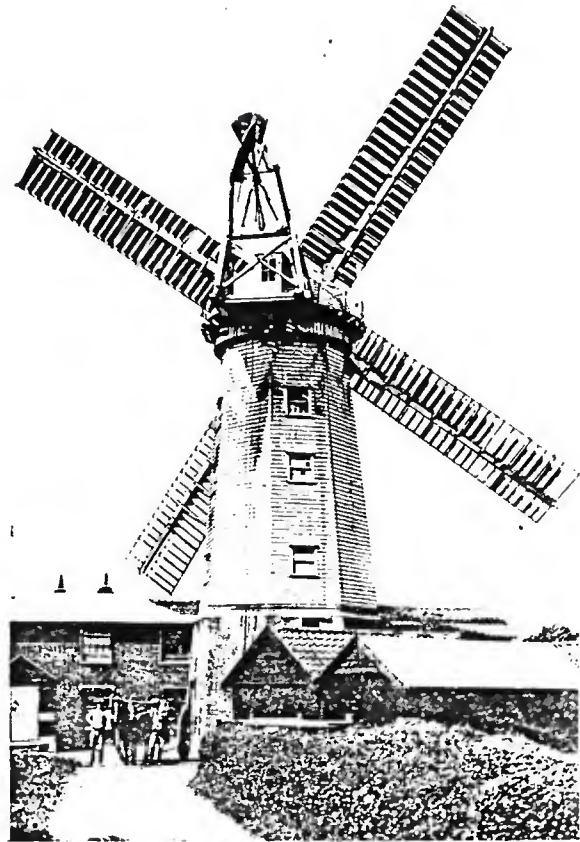
The mill at Occold is first shown on Bryant's map of 1825. It stood at Grid Ref. 156,705 in a field close by the road, away from the present mill site which is about 50 yards from the road. The 1837 O.S. map omits it but it re-appears on the Tithe Map of 1838, drawn as an open-trestle post mill. It was worked by William Capon, who combined the trades of miller and brick and tile maker, a rather unusual combination.

The Eye mill was built in 1835. Thanks to a civil action brought in 1839 by the millwright Rushbrooke, of Diss, against the owner, Robert Knipe Cobbold, a landowner and 'gentleman of fortune', a case reported at very great length in the Bury & Norwich Post of 14th August 1839, we know an unusually large amount about the mill and the personalities involved. Rushbrooke had contracted to build Cobbold a mill for £500, to drive two pairs of stones. Cobbold then asked for a third pair of stones, and for the mill to be made higher. This was done but the whole project ended up far more lavish than originally intended and cost the millwright nearly £1000 in materials alone. The owner held him to the original contract price however, which the court upheld. The report is very interesting, with various millwrights being called by plaintiff and defendant as expert witnesses. To be fair to the landowner, the millwright obviously had little idea of how to estimate for the works and brought the troubles on himself to some extent but on the other hand Cobbold knew that Rushbrooke was in financial difficulties anyway and treated him very badly as a result. The mill was 38ft 7ins. high (presumably to the curb) with an 8ft high base.

The mill was let to Henry Aldred who worked it until late 1849, when he died. An attempt to sell the mill was made in 1846, later postponed, when it was described as 'A very superior and well constructed SIX-SAIL TOWER MILL'.

The two mills come together in one advert in the Suffolk Chronicle of 21st September 1850 for an auction on the 25th.

'Several lots of MACHINERY, arising from a mill recently taken down, and consisting of a pair of stairs, nearly new, fit for a small post



windmill; one pair of excellent French stones, one pair of 3 feet ditto, together with wheels and irons for driving the same; cast iron windshaft with flange fitted to the same, adapted for 6 sails; a good head wheel, with clasp arms, wood break and irons, excellent flour mill, and several riggers (pulleys); 4 common sails, mill post, and other articles divided into convenient lots. NB. The wind shaft and flange is now lying at Eye, and will have to be removed at the purchaser's expense.'

The mill at Eye had been moved and set up on a new base at Occold, almost certainly by John Whitmore, the Wickham Market millwright, for the new proprietor who rejoiced in the name of Noah Thrower.

The following year his miller was killed in an unusual accident, falling head first into a grain bin and choking. Noah Thrower seems to have taken on too much for in 1853 he was auctioning his effects for the benefit of creditors (probably the millwright!) and advertising the mill to be let. He carried on though, and in an effort to drum up trade announced in 1854 that he was reducing the price of his flour. However in August 1854 'Occold TOWER MILL, which is of the first class, driving three pairs of French Stones, Flour Mill and Jumper' was advertised to be let. At the end of September 1854 Thrower's effects were again being auctioned, this time following his death. The mill was taken over by James Rouse, then by 1883 by George Talbot, and from 1908 by Edwin Capon (perhaps a descendant of the earlier owner, William Capon) and lastly from 1920 by Charles Mills, who pulled down the upper storeys and used an oil engine to drive the stones in the base in 1921. Steam was listed as an alternative power source in 1892 and drove an independent mill in the base.

Occold mill was a tall octagonal smock mill of six floors with a two-storied brick base. After its removal from Eye it had four very long double-shuttered patent sails carried on a normal poll-end type of windshaft. The cap was ogee-shaped, of the type favoured by Whitmores, probably indicating that their firm carried out the move. There was a gallery around the cap and a six-bladed fantail. There were three pairs of stones on the third floor, 4ft 10ins, 4ft 4ins and 4ft, overdriven according to Stanley Freese but considering Whitmore's normal practice I suspect they may have been underdriven. After its demolition the base was left, together with about three feet of the smock, topped by a low-pitched conical roof with the original cap finial at its apex. On my last visit in 1972 it was used as a store.

NEWS

FRAMSDEN RE-PAINTING

When I left Framsdén post mill in 1973, after helping Chris Hullcoop in a small way during the previous seven years, I little thought I would be back again twelve years later to re-paint the mill. Philip Barrett-Lennard had done the first re-painting in 1976 and by last year it was apparent that

further work was due if the mill was not to start deteriorating badly. This co-incided with the time I was made redundant and, cycling past the mill one day, the idea came to me that I might be in a position to undertake such work. I spoke with John Ablett, the mill owner, who readily agreed to my starting work in the summer of this year and I duly commenced early in July.

With help from Chris Hullcoop and my younger son, Alan, a scaffold platform was cantilevered out just above bottom floor level on the south facing side. This was facilitated by the removal of two weatherboards which had been fixed with brass screws during the restoration with this very idea in mind.

Ladders erected on this platform enabled the side to be painted and also a new layer of roofing felt to be stuck over the existing felted buck roof, on this side, after removing the old battens and random-nailing the existing felt layer. I am indebted to Chris for help with this rather difficult and very dirty job.

Next the head of the buck was painted, using ladders supported on purpose-made 'saddles', which rest on the roundhouse roof slope and provide a level platform. These are supported by ropes taken over the top of the roundhouse roof and secured to the trestle inside.

Three coats of white lead paint have been applied to these two sides after wire brushing, a total of 3 gallons (13.5 litres) of paint. It is expected that two coats will suffice for the tail and northern side which have been less affected by the weather. The bad summer, and other work, has slowed progress this year but I hope to finish the buck, steps and sails in 1986. John Ablett has been fortunate in being granted £500 towards the project by Mid Suffolk District Council. (Brian Flint)

THELNETHAM MILL GRINDS AGAIN

The 1985 'work-ins' have come and gone; everything we sought to achieve has been realised and the mill is now largely complete. The sails and stocks were lifted into place on 20th August. Following the installation of the striking gear and the shutters, at 18.05 hrs on 24th August the mill turned for the first time in 61 years and for the first time on four sails since perhaps the Great War. A very successful open day was held on the August Bank Holiday when the turning sails acted as a magnet, drawing in over 100 visitors, and incidentally giving us our first experience of the need to protect visitors from moving sails (4ft 6ins from the ground) and machinery.

There have been many adjustments to make now that the mill is turning and no doubt many more to make in the future. However, the mill shows signs of settling down and will hopefully prove to be very reliable in service. The mill will idle in a very light breeze at 3-4 r.p.m. when other local mills cannot even move and in a strong breeze gets up to about 12 r.p.m. without any load. The first flour was produced on 23rd October and the mill can now be

classified as 'working'.

Work continues at the mill at week-ends; the tower has had one coat of tar and will hopefully receive another before the winter; one pair of stones has been set up to work and we are continuing with repairs to the sack hoist, now virtually a necessity with the prospect of working the mill regularly.

Work remaining to complete the mill is the construction of the remaining 70 shutters, already under way; the plastering of the interior; the setting up of the second pair of stones and the power-driven stones; and general tidying up of floors and construction of the bins.

Aside from the mill, our new storage shed cum workshop is well under way with the new tiled roof in place.

A full report of the work-in will appear in the next Newsletter. (Peter Dolman)

HERRINGFLEET MILL REPAIRS

The four new common sails made by millwright Richard Seago were transported to the mill by barge in the early summer, the old sails departing by the same method. Unfortunately a closer examination of the stocks revealed that one required replacement and this has delayed the completion of the work. At present two of the sails are in position. Let's hope the new stock can be procured soon so that the mill can once again be demonstrated to the public.

CROSSWORD RESULT

There were 18 entries in the crossword competition featured in Newsletter 32. Of these, 14 were correct, and were from: Duncan Breckels, Pam Cockle, Rosemary Dennis, Peter Dolman, Brian Flint, Peter Hill, Russell Jones, Cliff Lovett, Mike Organ, Vincent Pargeter, John Pelling, Alan Wallis, Martin Watts and Chris Wilson. The draw was made at the A.G.M. on June 2nd, the winner being Chris Wilson, who received a book token for £12. Second and third prizewinners were Vincent Pargeter and Cliff Lovett respectively.

The solution is as follows.

ACROSS 1 Ibstone;5 Open;8 Head;9 Wailes;10 Tar;11 Trestle;12 Reefs;13 Bennett;15 Histon;18 Tuns;23 Terling;24 Clamps;25 Crosstree;28 Shutter;29 Roxwell;32 MarkLane;33 Pier

DOWN 1 Ixworth;2 Spiders;3 Overshot;4 Samson;6 Patent;7 Noria;8 Herne;14 Thrift;16 Icklesham;17 Nuts;19 Start;20 Friston;21 Ogee;22 Smutter;26 Rye;27 Meal;30 Wip;31 Lee



EXNING - A FORGOTTEN WATERMILL

The plight of this little-known watermill was brought to our attention in 1983 via Suffolk Preservation Society and the local vicar, the Rev. Brian Goodchild. He told us that owner Mrs. Cundall was worried about the mill and eventually we arranged to meet her daughter Angela Cundall at the mill. She had returned from the U.S.A. as her mother was ill in hospital and too frail to live at the mill house alone.

We found a fine old house in a lovely sylvan setting of 5 acres, but the mill derelict. One side of the roof had collapsed completely several years previously leading to rampant decay on that side. The wheel is missing but was small and overshot, unusual for Suffolk. The upright shaft with compass-arm spur and crown wheels and one pair of stones remain and we discovered a splendid inscription on the hursting: 'APRILL 13X1822 NEW. WR WH. SHAFT I.B.J.B.W.B. '.

A few months after our visit old Mrs. Cundall died and the property was sold to local building renovator Gordon Smith, without coming onto the open market. The inevitable application for house conversion followed, by which time both mill and mill house had been listed Grade II.

We could not object to the principle of house conversion for such a derelict mill with little machinery left. However, Mr. Smith's plan for the mill was quite out of scale with the building. The rear elevation with a row of dormers was grim and the plan proposed converting the area around the machinery, relegating it to

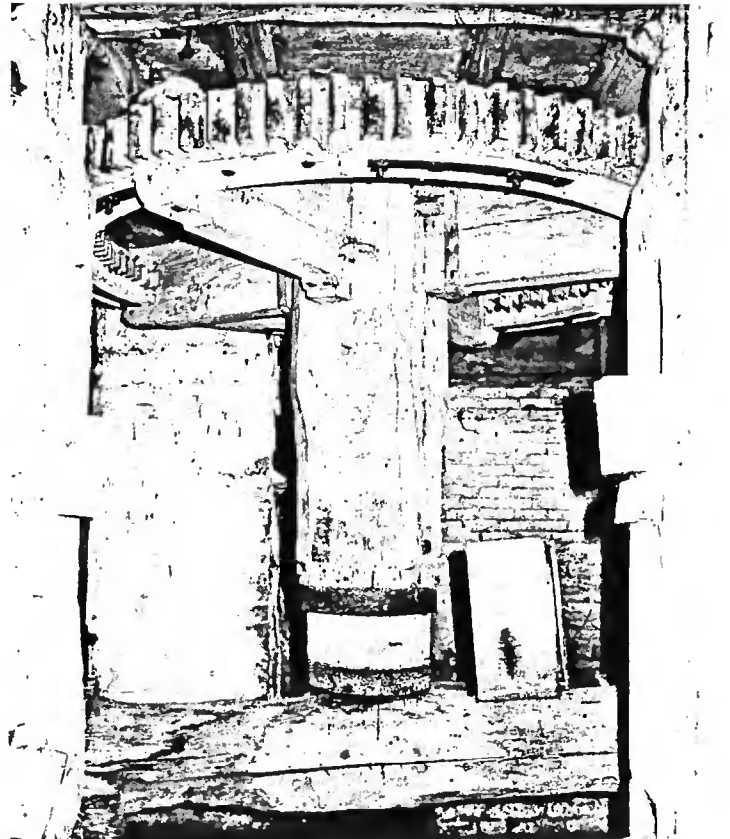


Top: Exning watermill & mill house (1983)

Bottom: Attic floor, Exning mill (1983)

decor. This area is really quite unsuitable for residential use if the water flow is to be re-instated, and there is no reason why it should not. We suggested a more modest scheme leaving the machinery area intact and as a mill, providing a buffer between the existing house and converted mill. The remaining three-quarters of the building could then be converted. We await the final outcome with interest.

Right: the compass-arm spurwheel in Exning mill. The inscription is on the post to the left.



WORK AT DRINKSTONE

I was a little disappointed that no Members contacted me to arrange to spend the odd Saturday or Sunday at Drinkstone mills. I continued with the re-tiling of the roundhouse roof and quickly finished the 700 tiles supplied by Richard Duke and Colin Budgey. I bought a further 60 or so from a very good secondhand building material supplier in Ipswich called Solopark. The tiles were originally laid in mortar and not just torched or pointed up afterwards. This is unusual for both old and new plaintiled roofs and was probably done to give extra support to tiles which have to be stood on for painting the buck above. I hasten to add that we use straw bags and specially designed roof saddles and I would not stand directly on the tiles.

The fly now has six blades again, losing the tailless hen look and keeping the mill to wind more easily.

The old pitch pine stock rescued when Woolpit mill collapsed in 1963 is now at Drinkstone. It first of all went to Holton but was never used there and was placed in the drive of millwright Bob Martin's mother's house in Beccles. Bob died a few years ago and his mother passed on last year and the old house was sold. So after nearly 20 years the stock left Beccles and returned to a place within sight of where it turned for so many years! (Chris Hullcoop)

SOHAM WINDMILL DAMAGED

On Sunday September 1st., while working, a sail was blown off Dowafield Mill at Soham owing to failure of the stock. Nigel Moon, the owner, restored the mill himself and a steel stock was fitted in the mid 1970's by Phillip Lennard.

Following the failure of steel stocks at Paston and Pakenham, the Soham stock was checked and re-inforced in-situ. It broke, however, just past the end of the whip, the severed sail somersaulting over the cap, miraculously avoiding it. The sail was smashed as it fell. It is possible that failure occurred through metal fatigue for the wind was not excessively strong and the mill must have withstood greater wind pressure at times in recent years. We hope Nigel Moon will be able to make good the damage as soon as possible and get his fine mill working once more. (Peter Dolman)

CANON LUMMIS

We learned with sadness of the death of Canon William Lummis at the beginning of November, at the grand age of 99. A former secretary of the Suffolk Preservation Society, he always took a lively interest in windmills and their preservation, especially in the inter-war years when so many were going out of use and being demolished. He is perhaps best known in this respect for the splendid collection of mill photographs which he compiled in the 1930's and generously deposited at the Suffolk Record Office.

MEMBERSHIP

As you will know, S.M.G.'s membership records are now stored on a computer file. Following the introduction of the Data Protection Act (1984) it is a requirement to ensure membership records held on computer are accurate. If you wish to see what is held against your name please let me know before the next Newsletter and the information will be supplied to you. (John Snowdon, S.M.G. Secretary)

EVENTS

S.M.G. SOCIAL EVENING: THE HOLLIES, NORWICH ROAD, CLAYDON on SATURDAY
DECEMBER 14th from 7.30pm.

The venue for this year's social evening is the home of our treasurer, Brian Flint, at Claydon, 4 miles north west of Ipswich. As in past years we invite you to bring slides for viewing, and there will be a free buffet and drinks. The Hollies is a Georgian house with a plastered front on the west side of the Norwich Road in the middle of the village. A location map is provided overleaf.

We are most grateful to Brian and his wife for their hospitality and look forward to a good turnout.

NEW YEAR'S DAY 'GRIND-IN': THELNETHAM WINDMILL, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1st 1986, 2-4pm.

For our traditional New Year's Day visit to a working mill we invite you to Thelnetham where, wind permitting, the mill will be grinding during the afternoon, and flour will be available for sale in large or small quantities. We hope to arrange a small buffet, including home-made bread and suitable beverages to keep out the cold! If you haven't seen the mill in action yet do come along.

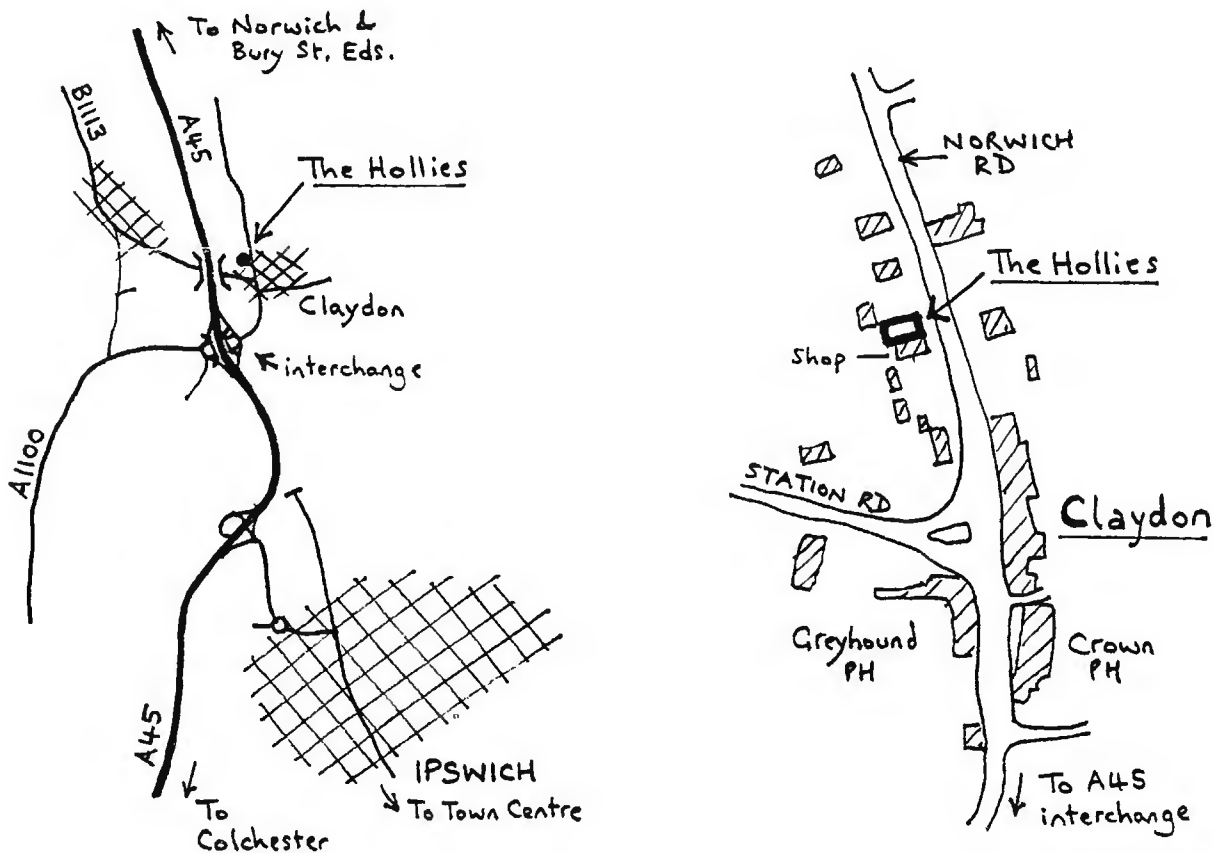
Advance Notice

S.M.G. Public Meeting

Our annual public meeting will be held in Ipswich Town Hall on Saturday February 22nd 1986. The theme of the meeting has yet to be finalised but it is hoped to be on Dutch mills.

S.M.G. 'Work-ins' for 1986

Following the pattern of recent years there will again be two week-long work-ins next year, with an opportunity for practical work at two mills, Thelnetham and Stanton. Final details are still to be decided but there will definitely be a week's work at Stanton post mill in late July, followed three weeks later by a week at Thelnetham and / or Stanton. The likely dates are July 19-27 and August 16-25. If you want further details before the next Newsletter please contact Mark Barnard on Ipswich 77853.



How to find The Hollies

Approach from the A45 (note Ipswich new bypass now fully open) and turn off at the Claydon interchange. In the village keep straight at the junction with Station Road and The Hollies is a little further on the left hand side of the road, next to a butcher's shop.