

SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter Number 36

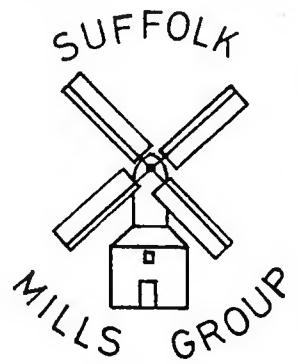
JUNE 1986

SECRETARY:

John Snowdon Lark Rise, Hemley

EDITOR:

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For those of you wondering what happened to the May newsletter, the answer is it's late! This is largely due to the unfortunate fact that Mark Barnard, our stalwart editor of nine year's standing recently suffered (through no fault of his own) severe concussion injuries in a car crash which have hospitalised him for some weeks or even months. As a result this newsletter is being edited and typed by Peter Dolman, who admits to being a slow typist. I'm sure you will all join with me in wishing Mark a full and speedy recovery.

For the benefit of the 120 of you who stayed away, we have a report of this year's A.G.M. below. I'm not sure if this year's was our lowest ever turnout but it must be pretty close. WHY? Please let the committee know if you feel changes are needed-SMG must not be allowed to wilt through lack of interest.

Our principal events this Summer are the two 'Work-ins' at Stanton and Thelnetham (see later for details) so please give us your assistance, or call in to inspect the progress if you can.

As I have raided nearly all the items sent in by members for the newsletter, please get writing again! How about accounts of mill hunting trips or holidays ('Five sided Smock Mills in Kent', 'Eight sail whale oil mills in Iceland' etc....). The next newsletter ought to appear in early Autumn, by which time Mark should hopefully be back at the tiller.

AGM REPORT

The 1986 A.G.M. was held on Sunday 8th June in the Museum of East Anglian Life Education Centre, Stowmarket and was attended by 13 members and friends. Opening the formal business, the Chairman, Chris Hullcoop, expressed his regret at the small attendance considering the attractive venue, good weather and ample notice. Too little notice had been the excuse of many last year; what could it have been this?

Apologies for absence were received from about a dozen members (it is impossible to list these at present) and Chris Hullcoop gave apologies for Mark Barnard, the editor, who shortly before the meeting had been injured in a road traffic accident and was in hospital recovering. Those present expressed the hope that he would make a full and speedy recovery.

The minutes of the 1985 AGM, having been printed in the newsletter, were accepted as a true record and a copy was signed by the Chairman (Prop. C.Wilson, Sec. D.Codd). There was no business arising.

Brian Flint, the Treasurer, circulated the annual accounts and enlarged upon them where necessary. Income remained fairly static with expenditure slightly up. This was because the Group's Public Liability Insurance premium had suddenly doubled. It was suggested that the committee look into the whole matter of insurance, to see if our cover was adequate and to perhaps find a more suitable policy. It was also resolved to move the Group's deposit account to the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society in recognition of their help in providing window displays in the past. The treasurer proposed that subscriptions remain unchanged for the year ahead and this was accepted by the meeting. The accounts were then adopted (Prop. P.Dolman Sec. R. Duke).

In Mark Barnard's absence the Chairman gave a brief outline of the editor's activities in producing three newsletters and a new publicity leaflet during the year and thanked him for his efforts.

John Snowdon, the membership secretary, reported that he had produced printed labels which greatly eased the sending out of newsletters; membership renewal forms were also now computerised. As we now keep membership details on a 'data base' we are required under the Data Protection Act to allow members to see this if they wish and from time to time a notice to this effect will appear in the newsletter. Membership remains steady with 132 paid-up members and 6 non-paying members (other Mills Groups with whom we have a reciprocal arrangement.)

As no nominations for the committee posts had been received, and the committee were prepared to continue in office, they were re-elected en bloc. (Prop. C.Lovett sec. C.Wilson). The committee is: Chairman Chris Hullcoop, Treasurer Brian Flint, Secretary John Snowdon, Editor Mark Barnard, Other members: Peter Dolman, Rob Shorland-Ball, Des Codd, Penny and Roy Berry (who had been co-opted during the year). In his concluding remarks the chairman expressed his sorrow at the decease of Mike Organ during the year who had served on the committee for many years.

Under any other business the chairman drew members' attention to the new publicity leaflet and asked them to distribute in an effort to stimulate new members. He then mentioned the forthcoming SMG work-ins at Stanton and reported the committee's recommendation to offer a grant of £300 and an interest-free loan of £500 (for one year) to the owner, Richard Duke. This would allow the project to get off to a good start without being pressed for funds until the public grant aid begins to flow. The motion was then proposed by P.Dolman and seconded by J.Snowdon and carried unanimously on a show of hands.

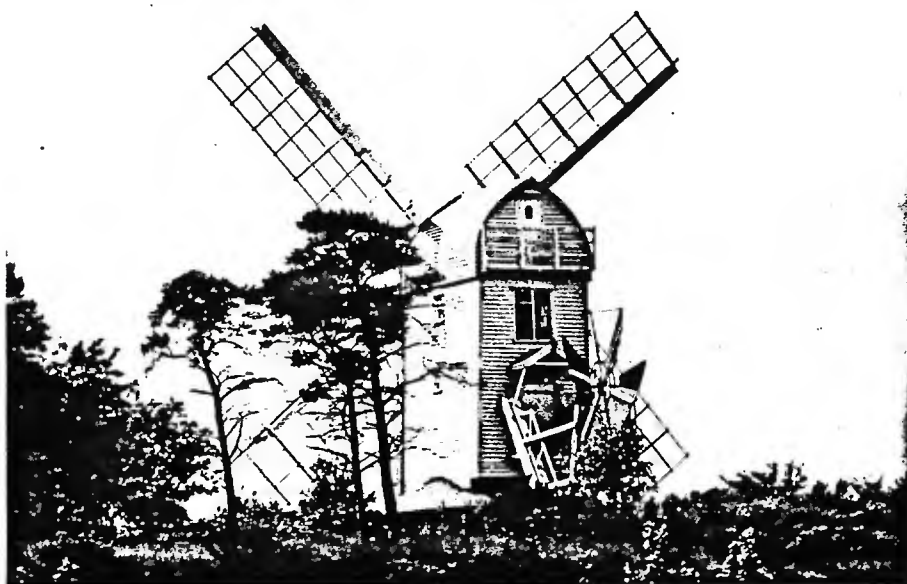
The chairman also recommended that we should keep funds in reserve in case the project to restore the 'Needham Buck' ever came into being again. There was also the matter of continued work at Drinkstone which may require financial assistance one day. The meeting then concluded with an illustrated talk by Peter Dolman and Chris Hullcoop on the Group's activities during the year, especially at Thelnetham. After lunch some members stayed to look around the museum with its excellent displays of local crafts and industries in the new 'Boby Building'. SMG's thanks go to The museum for allowing us to use the Education Centre & Free admission to the museum in the afternoon.

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OPEN DAY PETER STEGGALL

We arrived at midday. It was fine and warm, and a strong breeze from the west chased big cumulous clouds across the sky. We made sure that the sand pit just along the road had been opened, and that a local colleague had put out the car park notices.

Then we went up the steps to the mill through the heather, pines and lilacs, carrying all our gear for the day; a small folding table on which to set out our leaflets, two folding chairs for ourselves and for the less energetic visitors and haversacks containing our picnic lunches. The windmill, a white - painted post mill, fairly gleamed in the sun. It stood in a circle of bushes and trees on a little hill overlooking the whitewashed walls and pantiled roofs of the cottages, and the red brick Victorian school of Holton St. Peter near Halesworth.



HOLTON ST. PETER MILL
1971 (Photo. by Arthur
Dolman)

Before the first people arrived, we climbed a little way up the steps and I attempted to show my friend how the fantail worked. In fact he already knew, but unfortunately he was behind me, a little farther up the steps, with his back to the mill, and he received a heavy crack on the head from the corner of one of the wooden blades. It was not a serious injury but he felt the effects for the rest of the week.

The first visitors arrived at 12.30, took our leaflets, and mounted the steps after being warned to look out for the fantail! On many mills there is safe headroom on the steps, but not so here except for small children. We pointed to the great white buck with the steps leading up to the door protected by a decorative, pitched-roofed canopy and above that to the big window under the full-width gallery across the tail of the mill. Trying to explain how it all used to work was not easy now that the sails had no shutters and the only machinery left inside the mill consisted of the windshaft and the great brake wheel with its wooden teeth and iron band brake. But with a freshening and variable wind, many of the visitors were able to

see how the turning of the blue-painted fantail blades still kept the head of the mill into the eye of the wind. When the wind would not oblige, we gave a few turns on the crank handle at the foot of the steps.

Small knots of people kept arriving. They were of all ages from babes-in-arms to ancient grandmothers. They climbed - or most of them did - the steep steps, dodging the revolving blades, disappeared into the open doorway, and some time later emerged onto the gallery to gaze out over the village and the Suffolk countryside, and to wave to their less intrepid friends on the ground forty feet below. Cameras clicked and cine cameras whirred. One man went over the mill making mental notes so he could go home and make a model mill for his garden. Some people were from other parts of Britain and had never seen a windmill until they came on holiday to East Anglia. Many had been to the larger post mill at Saxtead Green which still has all its machinery and where the sails still turn merrily in the wind, although corn is no longer ground.

Questions were asked about the age of the mill and we referred them to the names and dates on some of the original timbers inside, indicating that the mill was built well over two hundred years ago. How did it work? Where were the millstones? Who restored the mill and maintained it?

The wind grew stronger and the clouds thickened, but people continued to come up through the heather and lilacs. Many expressed admiration for the skill and ingenuity of the designers and craftsmen who made the mill and its machinery. Several appreciated the spirit of a previous owner who allowed the mill to be saved from dereliction; the work and money contributed by volunteers and by East Suffolk County Council and the Government to restore the mill in the late 1960's and to keep it in good order; and the co-operation of the owners who had shown many people round during the years, and who had kept the grounds so well to provide a beautiful setting.

We invited the visitors to gaze into the roundhouse which has two floors, the lower on partly below ground level. As their eyes got used to the darkness they marvelled at the great post on which the mill turned and at the massive supporting crosstrees and quarter bars.

After 5 o'clock the flow of people abated and at 5.30 we took in the notices and closed the car park. Then we returned to the mill, packed our gear, locked up and prepared to leave. Just on closing time, four people arrived but did not insist on going inside so we showed them what we could from the outside, gave them leaflets and accompanied them back to the road, then set off for home.

In contrast with our journey up in the morning, in hot sunshine on a trunk road thronged with holiday traffic, we took the quiet back roads as a gentle drizzle started to fall, but we had had a fine day for the visitors and we felt that it was worth the effort.

(NOTE: Holton Post Mill, just east of Halesworth, is maintained by Suffolk County Council and is open to the public on Spring and August Bank Holiday Mondays, and at other times by arrangement with the owner, Mr. J. Nichols (Halesworth 2367))

BYGONE MILL

BARLEY GREEN, STRADBROKE

By Peter Dolman

A mill first appears on this site on Hodskinson's map of 1783 however according to a note in the 'Lummis Collection' (in Suffolk Record Office) it was built in 1704. A large post mill, it was one of the select band to have no sidegirts, instead using a vertical post jointed to each end of the crowntree, well braced to the upper and lower side rails. One of the side posts was inscribed 'I.F.1777', this apparently being a rebuild date. The 'F' probably stands for Farrow as John Farrow was owner in 1813, and remained at the mill until his death in 1830.

Barley Green Mill,

Stradbroke c. 1930

Photo by Claude Aldridge



At some time in the early 19th. century it was extended in the tail, raised and given a roundhouse. Remodelling of the machinery and sails may have occurred at the same time. In 1840 Jonathan Davey was the owner, followed by Robert Davey in 1850. However in 1858 it was offered for sale with William Wilby as tenant. By this time it was in its final form with patent sails and three pairs of 'superior French stones'. Edward Eldred was miller in 1868 and Walter Aldridge in 1874, followed by John Cook in 1883 and Samuel Hawes in 1892. After this unsettled spell it came to rest in 1894 when it was bought for £300 by Walter James Coles. His family worked it until early 1937, shortly after which the sails were taken off, followed by the buck in about 1940. Walter Coles installed steam driven machinery in the roundhouse when he bought the mill and this continued to be used after the windmill ceased work. The roundhouse still survives (at grid ref. 240740) with the post sawn off above the middle but I regret I have not been inside to inspect it in detail.

As last worked it had four double shuttered patent sails running anticlockwise, mounted on an iron windshaft. The brakewheel was originally compass arm but was converted to clasp arm, with a wooden brake. The head wallower and upright shaft were of iron, with the overdrift mortice spur wheel driving through iron nuts to a pair of 4'4" stones on the left and a pair of 4'10" stones on the right. This pair were taken out in 1930 to lighten the mill. The tail wheel was of iron with four arms and mortice teeth, driving an iron wallower and upright shaft with an underdrift

mortice spur wheel and iron nut. The 4' stones were on the left side.

One stock found its way to Woolpit mill in 1938 and the fantail and its carriage were bought by the Clover family to put on their mill at Drinkstone. The carriage-gearing is of Whitmore's usual pattern, with both wheels driven and it is possible that the mill gearing was also by Whitmore. The six fantail blades did service as a fence for a couple of years at Barley Green but came to no harm and may still be seen to this day on Drinkstone mill. In its later years the mill developed both a left-hand lean and tail sickness. A flexible 'skirt' was attached to the bottom of the buck to seal the gap. It was an interesting mill, and helped to prove that the unconventionally framed mills could outlast some of those with sidegirts.

BOOK REVIEW

BRIAN FLINT

LINCOLNSHIRE WINDMILLS - A CONTEMPORARY SURVEY By Peter Dolman

Published by the Lincolnshire County Council this is the latest offering in the well established County Windmill Series of contemporary surveys started by Arthur C. Smith in 1974. This volume, which runs to 64 pages, differs slightly from its predecessors in having a glossy cover embellished on front and back with attractive pen and ink sketches by the author.

Peter's previous book in this series on the Windmills of Suffolk was well received and, in tackling Lincolnshire he has further enhanced his reputation. The book broadly follows the format of others in the series, including the provision of a two page distribution map with distinguishing symbols and a large number of photographs which occupy almost half the book. These include, not only current exterior views, but a number of interior shots and some earlier pictures generally showing mills with their sails contrasting with views showing the same mill today, often just a capless tower or stump.

The survey covers the county before recent boundary changes and has a rather broader approach than previous volumes in the series. This is partly due to the fact that a large amount of historical information is lodged at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life. Much of this was accumulated by the late 'Sid' Simmons but has not previously been used in any published work on the county's mills.

The book gives a brief description of windmill technology particularly relating to the mills of Lincolnshire where the tower mill predominated. Millers and millwrights are touched on and a short section follows on 'Preservation and the Future'. Another feature is the inclusion of scale drawings, again by the author, showing the tiny Sutton on Sea brickworks pump contrasting with the huge tower corn mill at Moulton. Finally there is a Gazetteer of 136 remaining mills and mill remains and a short list of some bygone mills. At £2.50 the book represents excellent value and will fill a gap in the country's mill lore until someone tackles the formidable task of producing an exhaustive work on Lincolnshire Windmills.

(The book is available from Lincolnshire Recreational Services Department, County

buildings, Newland, Lincoln for £2.50 plus 60p postage, or from the author direct for £2.80 inclusive of postage - address later in this newsletter)

A SUSSEX TOWER MILL AT BARNHAM GUY BLYTHEMAN

This windmill stands in the yard of the former milling business which once centred around it, amid flat countryside which must have been well winded (the OS grid ref. is SU968039). It is a tarred four-storey tower mill of flint and stone with a metalled dome cap, the finial of which is now missing. This was once painted red, together with the striking gear and fantail hub. The sheeting, being copper, has weathered to a vivid green colour.

Originally driven by a pair each of spring and common sails, it was refitted with patent sails and new machinery in 1890 when it was also raised by about 18". This work was carried out by J.W.Holloway, the Shoreham millwright, who also built the mill at Patcham about this time. It seems to have been built in 1829 to replace a post mill which fell two years previously and was advertised for sale in the Brighton Herald of 23rd. Jan. 1830 as 'a substantially built cylindrical mill recently built without regard to expense and working two pairs of stones'. The Beaver family ran it until c.1880 when it passed to Maurice and John Baker. It ceased work by wind in the early 1920's when a 49 h.p. gas engine was installed to drive the two pairs of emery composition stones which replaced the original stones. Apart from the removal of the shutters, the sails remained in place until 1958 when they were taken down, together with the fanstage. There was formerly a stage around the tower at first floor level but latterly this did not go all the way round the tower. An unusual feature on the rendered tower was a wooden box in which the striking weights were kept. Eventually the great spur wheel was damaged so the stones were abandoned, work continuing with modern milling machinery in the mill and attached buildings until 1978 when the owners, John Baker, Barnham, Ltd., gave up milling, choosing instead to buy in meal and only mix it on site. The business finally stopped recently when the mill was put up for sale.

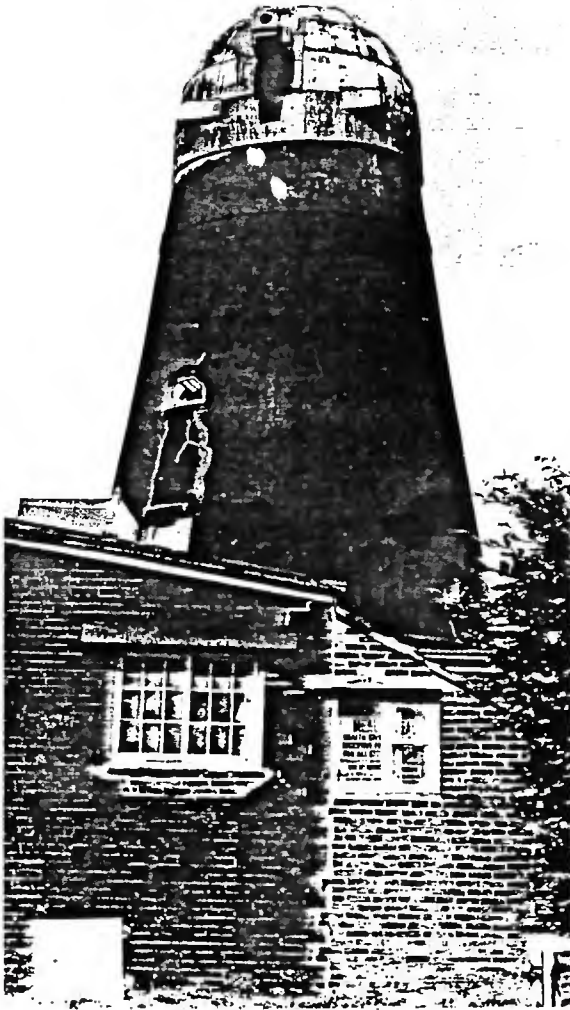
Much of the iron machinery, representing the ultimate development of traditional windmill technology in this country, remains. The large windshaft is unusual in that the poll-end is joined to the shaft with a flanged and bolted coupling, having been cast separately. The brake, which is an iron band acting on the rim of the iron brake wheel, is applied by a geared screw mechanism, a Holloway peculiarity also seen at Patcham and West Blatchington mills. The wellower and top of the upright shaft is unfortunately missing. The spur wheel, which has mortice teeth, drove the stones underdrift through iron nuts which could be raised out of gear by jack rings. A simple tentering gear is employed, consisting of a lever with a fulcrum pin at one end and the usual screw at the other. Being engine-driven latterly, the governor has not survived. Below the spur wheel is an inverted crown wheel where the engine drive, and also the drive to auxiliary machinery, connected with the

unright shaft.

The mill, which is listed, has yet to find a buyer although an architect has looked over it recently, presumably to assess its potential for house conversion. West Sussex County Council are keen to see the mill preserved, as most windmill lovers will be. This is a very rare survivor, one of the few disused and largely intact mills left in Southern England. As such it must be a prime candidate for restoration: surely there is an enthusiast out there waiting for just such an opportunity as this?

References: Martin Brunnarius- 'The Windmills of Sussex' (Phillimore, 1979) and Rev. Peter Hemming- 'Windmills in Sussex' (C.W. Daniel, 1936)

Barnham Windmill, Sussex, in 1976 when still in commercial use. (Photo by Peter Dolman)



NEWS & EVENTS

PLANNING BATTLE AT TIPTREE MILL

Our neighbours in the Essex Mills Group alerted us to a plan to convert this old tower mill (built in 1775) into offices, in itself not too desperate a thing as it has been converted into a house since 1969. The problem was that a huge stair turret was to have been built against the mill, the roof of which reached nearly to the curb, thus preventing any chance of getting the cap turning to wind should the sails ever be put back. When converted in 1969 by architect Clifford Jaques, as much as possible of the original structure and machinery was left intact and it would be possible to 'unconvert' the mill quite easily. On this basis many objections to the plans were made and as a result the scheme was rejected by the planning committee. The mill is still for sale (for around £70,000) and is not out of danger yet so

is being kept an eye on by local enthusiasts.

A NEW WINDMILL IN SUFFOLK?

Another planning battle is just being started up the coast at Southwold harbour. The harbour walls are crumbling and the channels are silting up. Waveney District Council cannot afford to carry out the necessary repairs so are smiling favourably at a private scheme to build a marina on a reclaimed island in the River Blyth. Local people, who like the area for its unspoilt charm, are beginning to show opposition to the proposals. However, we mill enthusiasts may prefer to support the scheme as on the new island the developers propose to build a new, traditional windmill! We await the outcome with interest.

MILL FOR SALE

Jackson-Stops and Staff are offering for £275,000 the 18th century watermill at Raythorne End, which straddles the River Stour on the Essex - Suffolk border. It was converted into a house in 1938 and is presumed to have been gutted. Don't all rush at once!

HERRINGFLEET OPEN DAY

The weather looked promising- fine, bright and breezy as Mark Bernard and I set off up the road signs, unused for a couple of years. As we walked across the marsh to the mill, Viv Codd sprang out of the reeds to film us, as the working of the mill was to be the subject of one of his excellent films. Once the mill was unlocked the first task was to grease the curb for a dead wooden curb needs plenty of lubrication if the tailpole is not to be strained.

Since our last open day a couple of years or so ago, Richard Seago the Norfolk millwright has fitted new sails and stocks to replace the horribly flat ones fitted in the late 1960's. The new sails are 'weathered' much more (although they still don't match the last working sails) and start much more easily. With very little water in the dyke and a fresh breeze the mill raced round at 23 rpm, even with only two cloths spread at 'dagger point'. A steady stream of visitors made the trek across to the mill, about 200 in all. Among these was Ed Berritt, the County Planning officer, together with his deputy. The mill has cost the County Council a lot of money in recent years and it was good to be able to show them the mill at its very best, thronged with visitors and turning merrily. We hope to repeat the open day later in the Autumn, or perhaps revive our almost traditional New Year's day hangover cure! (Chris Hullcoop)

PROGRESS AT DRINKSTONE

The great gale of a few months ago thoroughly shook up the winding gear on the old post mill. Fortunately there was no serious damage but the opportunity was taken to revive some of the worn components. The upright shaft was taken down in

late April to allow the crown wheel to be reset a little higher and to enable the muff coupling (which disengages the fan for hand winding) to be built up to a proper square section once again. This was achieved by filing the worn ends square and then sleeving them with a square tube to bring them back to the original section. A new coupling was then made to suit out of two pieces of angle welded together, by Denis Powers, an engineer with windmill sympathies from Woolpit. Having put all this back into good order it seemed appropriate to attend to the fantail blades acquired many years ago from Barley Green Mill (see earlier article). They are now well past their best but are beautifully made with oak stocks and pitch pine blades. It is interesting to speculate on how many fantails being fitted now will still be in fair order in perhaps 150 years. Scraping off some loose paint revealed that this, like many other fans, was painted red, white and blue in the past (as it was in the 1930's). Wilfred Clover never fitted the tip stays; perhaps they were lost in the move. We hope to make new ones this Summer as they will add much to the strength of this large (12'8" diameter) fan and will also provide a convenient point to tie the fan if this should be needed. The old mill, now less than 3 years from her 300th. birthday, is responding well to the limited amount of care we are able to give, but much more could be achieved with more helpers so if you are able to spare the odd Sunday, please contact Chris Hulcoop during office hours on Ipswich 715161.

WORK-INS

STANTON EXPECTS - THELNETHAM HOPES..... COME ALONG AND JOIN THE PARTY!

Two mills to work on this year for a change - it will be interesting to work on a post mill once again. Several members will recall the work-ins at Ramsey some 10 years ago. Ramsey was a very difficult post mill to restore to working due to its poor structural state; Stanton mill is ideal however. At Ramsey the side girts and sheers had both failed allowing the mill to sag fore and aft of the crown tree which itself was badly decayed at both ends. Once a buck has sagged like this it is extremely difficult to correct without resorting to major replacement of the frame. At Stanton the side girts and sheers are in excellent condition and there is little sag. Even the difficult to replace corner posts are in good condition. The one fly in the ointment is the prick post (on the centreline of the head) which has rotted at one point to only about 3 inches square, from its original dimension of 10 by 7". It must be replaced, as must the mid transverse beam. Unlike Ramsey with its diagonal bracing forming a diamond pattern, Stanton mill has no diagonals at all. Therefore the timbers and boarding must be good and strong. It is very tempting to 'improve' the mill and to fit diagonal braces but as it was built without them, in common with many other mills, this temptation should be resisted for the sake of historical authenticity (so long as the long-term 'survival value' is not prejudiced). There is considerable bracing within the large section timbers and of course the weatherboarding adds considerably to the rigidity of the structure.



Stanton Mill, with scaffolding erected in readiness for the Work-in.

The right side of the buck roof was re-sheeted in 1979 during the Eardwell and Stanton Work-ins. The left side is now in need of attention and we will be completely re-sheeting it, again using galvanised steel over the old weather boards. Further work to be tackled if resources permit will include some re-setting of machinery, patching and painting the tail and sides of the buck and repairs to the steps.

There is plenty of room around the mill for pitching tents although good bed and breakfast accomodation can be had locally for those who like a few home comforts. There is a washroom at the mill with hot and cold water and a toilet and we can also arrange for volunteers to take baths with people in Stanton (!). As ever with these projects so much depends on the weather but come rain or shine, we will be ready to do battle in the name of molinology. If you are able to help, even if only for a day, please contact the project leader, Chris Hullcoop, at 42 High Road West, Felixstowe, Suffolk (telephone Ipswich 715161 during office hours). After the work-ins, repairs will be continuing through the efforts of the mill's owner, Richard Duke, who would no doubt like assistance. Anyone interested in helping over a longer period should therefore contact him at Alton Green Farm, Lower

Holbrook, Ipswich (telephone Holbrook 328166).

As an interesting aside, members may like to know that the new pair of sails for the mill, to be made by Chris Wilson at Over mill, will be made to a design arrived at using a computer programme. The original dimensions will be followed, as almost all the original shutters remain in repairable condition. However the last working sails, made in 1940 by Amos Clarke, were thought to be rather too flat on to the wind. David Pearce's computer programme confirmed that the sails were not as efficient as they might have been, and comparison with the last original sails, parts of which remain in a nearby cowshed, confirmed that the sail bar angles were once much steeper. By cleverly manipulating the programme, Dave was able to turn it around, feeding in such details as r.p.m., sail span and width and the desired power output in a known windspeed. The machine then did its stuff and produced the ideal sail bar angles for these design criteria. Not surprisingly, the tip angle became much more, in fact the design came out very similar to the last working sails at both Stanton and at Thelnetham, where the sails are very efficient indeed. All of which goes to prove that the old millwrights, working only to their 'rules of thumb', by and large got it right. (If anyone would like their sails analysed, Dave could probably be persuaded to run the programme again.)

MEANWHILE, AT THELNETHAM.....

To all intents and purposes Thelnetham Windmill (seen at work in full sail opposite) appears, externally at least, to be complete. Once through the door however, another picture presents itself! Very many items remain to be finished in the woodwork line; the decoration is largely incomplete, many parts of the fan assembly and striking gear still needing their top coat; the interior walls need plastering (although some of this may be done by the work-in).

The principal jobs to be tackled are as follows:

1. Construction of a new 'back' door.
2. Setting up the second pair of stones, involving balancing the runner, constructing a new



spout and decorating the tun and spout (with shellac varnish).

3. Setting up the engine driven stones, including levelling the bedstone, modifying the tentering screw and assembling the drive gear and tun.

4. Construction of new bins and spouts.

5. Restoration of a grain cleaning machine.

6. Painting the fantail, fanstage and striking gear.

7. Tarring the tower and painting doors and windows.

8. Work to ancillary buildings and tidying up the site (if manpower permits).

Quite a list of items, you will agree! Site facilities are now even better than last year, with the addition of a well-lit and spacious workshop as well as the usual facilities (washroom with hot & cold dribbling water, toilet, calor gas cooker and mains electricity). As in previous years there is ample space to pitch tents around the mill; some people prefer to sleep in the mill itself, or to find a local bed and breakfast hostelry.

With S.M.G. splitting its resources this year it will be interesting to see how much support Thelnetham can retain with the rival attraction of Stanton mill just down the road. The Thelnetham work-in will only be during the second week and from the list of jobs it is apparent that we will need both skilled carpenters and people willing to wield a paintbrush in high places. At Stanton there will again be plenty of scope for woodwork as well as less skilful, although equally important scraping down and painting. It's up to individuals of course, but we must stress that Thelnetham is far from complete yet and deserves to retain some measure of support, being the showpiece for amateur mill restoration in the country and hopefully setting standards for others to better. As the two mills are only about 6 miles apart, how about splitting your time between them?

As Thelnetham mill is now working regularly there will be opportunities during both work-ins to see it grinding with the only complete set of sails in full working order in East Anglia (until joined by Bardwell and Pakenham mills in due course!). As a final attempt to attract volunteers, anyone attending the work-in will qualify for a free bag of stoneground flour!

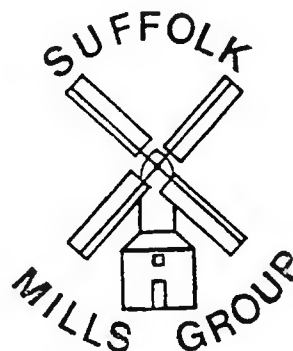
As in previous years the Thelnetham work is being led by Peter Dolman and any member thinking of coming along is asked to contact him at 3 Lawling Avenue, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex (telephone Maldon 58440 evenings)

THE 1986 WORK-INS WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

19th - 27th. JULY AT STANTON

16th - 25th. AUGUST AT BOTH STANTON AND THELNETHAM

PLEASE GIVE SUFFOLK'S WINDMILLS YOUR SUPPORT



REPAIRS IN PROGRESS TO PAKENHAM AND WOODBRIDGE WINDMILLS

It seems to have been ages since Pakenham windmill was in full sail (possibly because it is ages) and it is with some relief that we can report that work is once more progressing. Two new sails have been built and are being fitted to the steel stock which disgraced itself a few years ago and which has been patched up. Wooden clamps are being used on it in a hopeful 'belt and braces' job to ensure that it does not fail again. Work is also being done to the fantail and the whole mill will be repainted, the work being carried out by Norfolk millwright John Lawn. With luck it should be going again on four sails by the end of the Summer.

This Spring a lot of tidying up of the interior has been done at Buttrum's mill, Woodbridge, involving some work to machinery (largely cosmetic, we believe) and work to make the 'dangerous' steps safe for visitors. It is a shame that no effort seems to be being made to get this fine mill working again, which although it has a fully shuttered set of sails, has no brakewheel teeth!

We have heard that James Waterfield is contemplating putting the second pair of sails on his mill at Bardwell. When he does, Suffolk will be able to boast that all four of its remaining tower mills have full sets of sails, and three of the mills will be working. What a pity that the eight post mills are not in the same state.

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AS A SPACE-FILLER, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING:

A RECIPE FOR WHEATMEAL DIGESTIVE BISCUITS (BY PETER DOLEMAN)

8 oz. (225g.) stoneground wheatmeal flour (85%) - obtainable at Thelnetham mill, amongst others; 2 oz. (55g.) brown sugar; 2 oz. soft margerine; 2-3 tablespoons of water; a small pinch of salt.

METHOD: Rub the margerine into the flour in a bowl, add other ingredients and knead into a soft dough. Roll out onto a lightly floured worktop to about 3-4 mm. thick, cut into 3" (75mm) discs with a pastry cutter and place on a greased baking tray, then prick the biscuits through with a fork. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 350 deg.F. (180 C, gas mark 4) for 15-20 minutes. Do not over-bake. Take them off the tray and leave to cool on a wire rack. (Makes about two dozen)