

SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter Number 37

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I must start by expressing my thanks to those of you who conveyed their good wishes for a speedy recovery following my accident in early June. You will be pleased to hear that I am now back in harness and feeling fine. My thanks go to Peter Dolman for taking over and producing the last Newsletter so competently while I was still hospitalised.

Although I was not present, I would like to add my disappointment at the sadly low attendance at the A.G.M.. We spent a lot of extra time and money in sending out individual invitations and had already announced the date and venue in the January Newsletter. With a chance to walk around the fine museum site free of charge in the afternoon, it is difficult to know what more we can do to persuade you all to appear!

The summer work-ins saw most effort concentrated at Stanton to give a flying start to Richard Duke's restoration of the mill. A full report appears below.

Our popular early winter social evening is planned for Saturday December 13th., at Holbrook near Ipswich. Another quite popular event is the traditional working of Herringfleet mill on New Year's Day. Details of both these will be found at the end of this Newsletter.

May I make yet another plea for Newsletter material? I know things take a while to write, but a steady trickle of contributions makes my life as Editor just that little bit happier!

Mark Barnard

THE STANTON WORK-INS CHRIS HULLCOOP

Stanton post mill has had an eventful history since it was built in 1751 and this summer another page was added with our two 'work-ins'. From our survey in January it was clear that the major effort on the buck structure in 1939 had gone into the sides, the head probably being in reasonable condition at that time. We cut away areas of boarding from the head and decided to replace the prick post and mid transverse beam and to plate the lower transverse beam. The weatherbeam seemed to be in good condition.

By July, Richard Duke had installed a loo and washbasin in one end of the nissen hut and converted an old garage into a splendid 'boudoir' with two beds and even a carpet. This, together with the 4-berth caravan and good tent pitches, gave ample accommodation.

The first task was to slide the runner stones back onto the crowtree to lessen the weight on the head. Then Acrow props and numerous struts were fitted in the



Start of the work-in: stripping boards from the head



With the boards off, the frame can be examined

head to take the weight of the machinery and allow removal of the boards and all of the head frame. It was an awesome sight with the machinery apparently hanging in mid air. Peter Dolman started to prepare the new prick post while Dave Pearce and I cut away the rotted centre of the lower transverse beam prior to plating. We kept glancing nervously up at the weatherbeam, now completely exposed in the bright light of summer. It had been plated and boded over the years, was sagging and displayed some alarming cavities. Thankfully the two front corner posts were good (as expected) and Alan Loasby and Martin Hanson set about letting in the heads of various bolts which would otherwise have made difficulties when new boards were fitted. On Sunday evening our honorary millwrighting adviser Vincent Pargeter called. He and his wife had been working on their wherry in Norfolk. He grinned when we told him the head had proved worse than expected, a familiar predicament in mill repairs. He advised a new weatherbeam and lower transverse beam and offered to help us later in the week. Early Monday morning Richard Duke and I drove to Anglia Timber at Coney Weston, fearing that such large timbers could take weeks to be delivered. We were delighted when the timber yard boss Keith Cowling promised the first after lunch and the second by Wednesday. The cost of the head repairs though had doubled. We had originally planned to start work on the gable above the weatherbeam but this had to be postponed until after the new weatherbeam was fitted, releasing Cliff Lovett and Colin Budgery to work on the steps and

platform. Alan Wallis, Roger Skinner and Chris Seago had started work on the left side of the buck roof, removing the remains of the old sheeting and fitting a substantial plank along the eave to give a firm fixing for the new sheeting.

An unnerving crash from the tail warned us that Chris Wilson was about to lower the flyposts. The winding gear had been rebuilt by Amos Clarke to an unusual design which worked quite well but had no provision for hand cranking. Now the flyposts together with the gearing were carefully lowered onto the two old water tanks that had supplied the house from the meal floor of the buck. The two truck wheels are unusually large and similar to Friston - nothing like the standard Whitmore wheels fitted to five of the eight remaining Suffolk post mills. I wonder where they came from?

At the head, Quentin Garlic was preparing the sheertree ends and the corner posts to take the new lower transverse beam. Fred Davis was preparing this with his powerful chain saw, wielded with great precision. A little finishing and the huge beam was ready for hoisting. A Tirfor winch was used to pull the beam onto the scaffold platform via two substantial planks set at 45°. A little manoeuvring and the beam was in place and a good fit. The new prick post soon followed, enabling a start to be made on the difficult mid transverse beam. This is in two halves on either side of the prick post and, as well as forming the frame, supports the front ends of the stone bearers. Its final curve had to



The weatherbeam (later replaced)
and upper transverse beam



The head frame at the end of
the first week's work

match that of the lower transverse beam below. The new weatherbeam duly arrived on Wednesday and the man from the timber yard was able to see their first beam in place on the mill! The head of Stanton mill is unusual for Suffolk in that the weatherbeam is almost straight and corbelled out on the front ends of the upper side girts. About two feet below the weatherbeam the prick post is tenoned into an upper transverse beam which matches the curve of the head below.

Vincent Pargeter arrived on Thursday and this time the lower transverse beam was passed with good marks! He recommended a little straightening of the head by pulling hard across the diagonal line with a chain tackle and then set to work making the new weatherbeam. By now the studs were starting to be replaced. It is always difficult to judge what to repair, replace and re-use. Too many mills have suffered excessive replacement of timbers and their value as historic buildings has been diminished. If a mill is to work though it must be strong and the large investment in time and money must not be prejudiced by failure of a vital component. Both requirements have to be met and usually they can.

While work proceeded on the mill, the new weatherboards for the head were being primed and undercoated by Jo Roberts and Michelle Skinner. It is vital that new boards are painted behind where they lap. If this is not done water is drawn up into the unprotected wood and rot appears in just a few years.

Over the week several cyclists had seen the tents and mistaken the mill for a camp site. Two German girls called late one day and Annie Duke offered them the site for an overnight stop. As they stood looking at the mill we suddenly remembered that painted clearly on the left side of the buck were the words 'You will die, Germans'. This was painted on a board in 1940 and subsequently covered with zinc sheet which fell off a year or two ago, exposing the message from those unhappy days.

With the head frame starting to look quite substantial again we were able to jack up the front end of the windshaft and prop it from the sprattle beam, with another prop under the brake just in case. Once the weight was off the weatherbeam the various brackets and bolts fitted over the years could be removed, leaving the beam free for removal. Above the weatherbeam the weather studs, neck bearing and blocks were removed. The brass bearing and the swinging pot in its chair were in good condition but all the woodwork needed replacement. Sunday evening was rapidly approaching so the head was made as waterproof as possible with a large tarpaulin and old corrugated sheets nailed over the gable.

Some valuable work was completed between the work-ins. Cliff Lovett cut out step mortices, Vincent Pargeter made special iron brackets and bolts for the weatherbeam and Peter Dolman and I pressed on with the studs. Richard Duke and his friend Steve reinforced their scaffolding and hoisted the new weatherbeam onto the top platform.

The second work-in was held at the same time as the one at Thelnetham which



Left: Roger Skinner fixing a galvanised steel sheet on the buck roof

Lower left: Chris Wilson admires the scarf joint on the step-string (he made it!)



meant that both mills could have done with more help but nevertheless much was accomplished. The weatherbeam was soon completed and hoisted into place. Fitting the new brackets was tricky, with much drilling in a confined space and numerous new bolts to make up. Meanwhile Roger Skinner returned to the buck roof where the new steel sheets needed a lot of fitting and sealing at the joints. Cliff Lovett worked steadily on the steps while Jo Roberts and Michelle Skinner started the tricky job of reinforcing the edge of the roundhouse roof, preparing for the time when it will be re-felted. Work continued on the wire-brushing, patching and painting of the left side of the buck. The sides of the buck will last a few more years before

a thorough overhaul and reboarding are needed, especially if the mill is turning to wind.

John Spencer called in for a day with his guitar and added some musical entertainment to our tea breaks. These proved popular with 'doggy Duke' who was able to sample a wide variety of biscuits and confections. I confess to some prejudice over dogs, animals which without warning are likely to do something dangerous, disgusting or embarrassing and possible all three at once! Not so 'doggy Duke', this little terrier is a credit to canines and I must review my prejudices.



The new boarding appears



The old tail boards are re-painted

With the studwork completed, Alan Wallis and Andy Abbott were able to fit the first weatherboards. The petticoat was left short as the post and trim of the buck on the post both have to be corrected and this can't be done until the scaffolding is either removed or disconnected from the buck. We hoped to board continuously upwards rather than start in two places and finish up with a closing gap whose edges were not parallel.

With the new weatherbeam in place and bolted down and the anti-roll ties put in by Amos Clarke re-fitted by Martin Hanson, we were ready to start on the gable above. The main horizontal beam just above the storm hatch was fitted first, followed by the weather studs, neck block and the swinging pot neck bearing. It was some time before each item fitted. All of these components then had to be fitted simultaneously before the various bolts and coach screws could be tightened down. Below the weatherbeam Alan Wallis fitted the difficult very short studs down to the upper transverse beam, and Brian Flint and Fred Davis brought the weatherboarding right up to the transverse beam.

The correct height of the neck bearing cannot be gauged accurately until all the scaffolding is removed and the sail clearance from the roundhouse roof can be measured. It is most important that the neck bearing can be easily moved up or down without spoiling the weatherproofing around the neck of the windshaft, even with four sails fitted. The windshaft was gently lowered and the neck journal settled back into its place in the brass. There was just

time to board up under the weatherbeam and then to cover the gable for the winter. Roland Smith had sent along some of his tough horticultural polythene which was hastily battened on as hurricane Charlie approached. Tents were quickly taken down as the sky darkened and the wind increased. Overall we had been lucky with the weather, most of the rain falling overnight.

At work-ins we always hope to achieve more than we do, but considering the early setbacks when we discovered a new weatherbeam was needed we feel happy with the start which has been made. Richard and Annie were good hosts, providing plenty of tea and biscuits. Towards the end of both week's work we all squeezed into the mill house and sat down to a superb meal with wine which Annie had kindly prepared. Richard and Annie were very appreciative of the help given at the work-in and enjoyed meeting everyone. The special cake and signed card we presented to them for their hospitality came, they said, as a nice surprise and was most gratefully received.

LETTER

The provocative (?) editorial in the last Newsletter has prompted David Barton to write with some thoughts about S.M.G. activities. I print an edited version of his letter below, together with a reply on behalf of the Committee. How about some thoughts from the rest of you? We wait with baited breath! Editor

In view of the comment in the second paragraph introducing Newsletter Number 36, I feel I ought to reply as one of 'the 120 of you who stayed away' (from the A.G.M.). Membership of the Suffolk Mills Group does represent a problem unless one has the inclination to find the time and effort demanded in the work of mill restoration. It requires a degree of single-mindedness to engage in this and some of us have commitments in other areas which prevent us from being really active.

Possibly I am in a minority of one, but Sunday mornings finds me giving priority to public worship and in this instant loyalty to the Mills Group cannot take pride of place. I would look at a weekday more sympathetically. In terms of public meetings I feel the Group should consider holding Town Hall meetings more frequently, at least twice a year. For many years the single evening has been heavily overloaded, with speakers arriving with armfuls of cassettes which would extend the running time far beyond that allowed.

There is also an annoying duplication of material either by one or more speakers, particularly in relation to Thelnetham. The same subject appears in both slides and film which, in my opinion, is an unnecessary repetition. There is an optimum number of slides that can be viewed and enjoyed in an evening and to keep bashing away on the projector only leads to boredom and annoyance. Penny Paterson's creative efforts are unique and deserving of more time for viewing. Insofar as the Group looks for a professional standard of restoration, one would hope that the same might apply to the planning of programmes for meetings. Better to view fewer slides to some purpose than many in unholy haste.

REPLY

Yes, we were very disappointed at the meagre attendance at the A.G.M. in June, especially as we had taken the trouble to give all members special notice of the event, and that there was the added 'bonus' of a free visit to the museum. The editorial was written a short time after the A.G.M. and its tone reflects

this disappointment. Although a Sunday morning is bound to exclude some people who attend church regularly, we have found this to be the most convenient time for the majority. It also gives us a chance to combine the 'business' side of the meeting (often considered dull) with a visit to a mill in the afternoon.

We do not entirely agree that to engage in mill restoration as a S.M.G. member 'requires a degree of single-mindedness'. Several members have come along to the work-ins for a few days or even the occasional day and made a valuable contribution to the work. Where single-mindedness is more necessary is in organising the work for others.

We sympathise to an extent with your comments about the indoor meetings we have held. Once or twice these have finished too late due to speakers over-running their time. We think this year's Town Hall meeting was much better in this respect. We would also like the Group to hold more such meetings but there are two main problems. One is lack of material (you already mention repetition). The other, more serious, problem is the very small nucleus of S.M.G. members involved in actually organising these events. What the Group is really crying out for is an injection of new blood with new ideas. The existing few are simply overworked, but we do try to do our best. Friends of Norfolk Windmills, with many more members, holds less events than S.M.G..

STORM DAMAGE TO MILLS PETER DOLMAN

Apart from routine advertisements for the sale of mills, the main items of interest in old newspapers to the mill enthusiast concern storm damage and other accidents to mills, often going into graphic (and gory) detail. In this article I will confine myself to storm damage; mangling and falls can wait for another!

Bury and Norwich Post, 11th November 1795: 'During the tremendous storm of wind between three and five o'clock on Friday morning last...at Lavenham, the windmill of Mr. Jonas, situate on the hill on the North side of that town, was blown down about four o'clock in the morning, and Mr. Jonas, who was in the mill, was killed by the fall....The deceased, who resided in the town of Lavenham, rose during the storm to attend the mill, and soon after met this fatal catastrophe. His dwelling house also received very material damage by the storm. He has left a wife and six children to lament his loss. (This was replaced by another post-mill, which was itself replaced by a tower mill in 1831.)

A windmill at Cornard, near Sudbury, was blown down, and the top and sails of another at Ballingdon carried away. A windmill on Bishop's Hill, near Ipswich, belonging to Mr. Dowsing, was totally demolished; the sails of two mills on Stoke-Hills, belonging to Mr. Savage, were carried away. At Colchester, the windmill of Mr. Dunnage was blown down and part of the roof carried across the river. The windmill belonging to Mr. John Greef, of Cranworth, (near Norwich) was blown down, and Mr. Greef being in the same at the time was

unfortunately killed in its fall. At...Yarmouth...Mr. Tuck's and Mr. Youell's mills suffered considerably...'

A storm was so severe on the Continent that the B.N.P. recorded its happening (3rd December 1800). 30 mills were blown down near Dunkirk, 'several' near Calais and 200 in the Lisle (Lille) area. This last figure, if true, represents a complete disaster and sounds rather exaggerated to me.

More locally, the B.N.P. again reports on 5th March 1817: 'On Thursday morning last, between eight and nine o'clock, the wind blew a most tremendous hurricane from the West.... A windmill at Wetherden was blown down, which happily the miller had just quitted. The windmill at Cockfield, and several others in the neighbourhood, are reported to have suffered materially. At Ipswich, the sails of the mill on the Whitton Road, near the King's Barracks, were shivered in pieces, and two sails blown off a mill at Westerfield. At Woodbridge, two of the sails were carried off Mr. Manby's mill, one of which was carried a considerable distance, and the other went through the round-house, shattering the brickwork, and was found erect amongst the wheat.'

The following week another item occurred in the paper: 'A subscription has been set on foot for Mr. Cullen (sic) the unfortunate sufferer by the blowing down of Wetherden Mill (whose narrow escape we noticed in our last paper) - His loss is estimated at £350...£150 had been spent on repairs, only just completed.' This mill was an open trestle post mill on Wetherden Warren which had been standing since at least the 1760's. It was immediately rebuilt 'in a masterly style, upon the best mechanical principles' and advertised for sale within a year. No-one would buy however and the Collen family remained at the mill until the 1870's. It later gained a roundhouse and was pulled down early this century.

A lucky escape was colourfully reported by the Suffolk Chronicle on 13th March 1824: 'The late Storm. On Wednesday week, at five o'clock in the afternoon, in the midst of a violent storm of hail and snow which came up from the North, a sudden hurricane blew down a Post Wind-mill, at Laxfield, in this county, and dashed it to pieces with a tremendous crash. Mr. Henry Garrard, the miller, had just before stopped the mill, and was, at the time, upon the threshold, in the act of descending the stairs. In an instant, the stairs broke, the mill ran upon her piers, and overwhelmed Mr. Garrard, who was enclosed in its ruins. What a moment! His escape, however, was as providential, as the moment was appalling. The bearers of the penthouse were forced into the ground and these, with the door, which had been left open outwards, became shores which prevented the tail-end of the mill from falling flat on the ground. Under these shores, in a space not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the ground, Mr. Garrard was protected, and escaped unhurt, just in time to make way for the wheat, barley, beans and weights, which in an instant afterwards, filled up the space he had so miraculously occupied. We regret to add, that being unable to rebuild the mill, and thereby provide for the growing necessities of his dependent family, Mr. Garrard is deprived, by the accident, of his

accustomed means of support. The liberal minded and benevolent will require no further appeal.' (Unfortunately Laxfield cannot have been very liberal, for nothing further is heard of Mr. Garrard or the mill.)

Another such incident was in the Suffolk Chronicle of 1st January 1825: 'During a severe gale on Monday se'nnight, the windmill belonging to Mr. Osborne, of Sible Hedingham, Essex, was blown down. The man in the mill had a most providential escape. He was at the time upon one of the upper floors, when perceiving the danger to which he was exposed, at the instant before the mill fell he slid down by the sack rope into the roundhouse. The mill was crushed to atoms the next moment, but the miller escaped.' The wreckage was subsequently sold at auction and replaced by the tower mill, as recorded in Ken Farries' book 'Essex Windmills, Millers and Millwrights' (Volume 4).

Lightning was another hazard to content with. 'During a storm on Monday last, a windmill at Benhall, near Saxmundham, was struck by lightning, which shivered the sails to pieces and did other damage. Two young men were in the mill at the time - one a son of Mr. Mills, the proprietor of the windmill, and the other a son of Mr. Harvey, of Aldeborough - both of whom were struck down, and were for a short time insensible; happily the former received no harm, the latter had his hair singed and his hand a little scorched, but both were providentially preserved.' (Suffolk Chronicle, 2nd July 1825)

In the Suffolk Chronicle of 2nd September 1826 another disaster is reported: 'The lightning on the evening of yesterday week was awfully vivid:- A mill at Stowmarket, the property of Mr. W.L. Fison, was shattered in an extraordinary manner, the cap, with the sails, cast-iron shaft, & c. weighing upwards of five tons, falling into an adjoining field, and the iron rods and splinters flying a considerable distance.' (This smock mill was accident-prone and was eventually burnt down c.1880. The steam mill on the site (the Finborough Road) was in use until recently.)

A few months later, the Suffolk Chronicle of 31st March 1827 notes: 'A mill was blown down at Fransden on the 17th inst.: the sails, and top, and part of the body of the mill were carried wholly off. Fortunately the miller had left the mill about two minutes. The damage is about £120. A subscription is on foot for the proprietor (Simon Sampson), who is an industrious man, the purchase of this mill being the earnings of many years...' (The mill was built by Sampson, a millwright from Colchester, in the early 1820's and was a hexagonal smock mill. It was later destroyed and replaced by a post mill moved from Weybread c.1870. It was to the north of the present post mill.)

NEWS

KEN FARRIES

The sad news of Ken Farries' death was conveyed to us at the second Stanton work-in by Roland Smith, his friend and collaborator for many years. Ken was

a quiet and good-humoured man, well-liked and always willing to help others in their research. His stature as a researcher and writer is there for all to see in his splendid books, so thorough and yet so readable.

He was a modest man and many years ago I recall meeting him in a bookshop in the Charing Cross Road. We found a tatty copy of 'The Windmills of Surrey and Inner London', priced at more than a brand new copy could then be bought for. He explained this to the bookseller who doubted us and asked how we knew. Pointing to Ken I said 'He wrote it'. Ken looked most embarrassed as the bookseller shook him by the hand and lowered the price!

Fortunately his Essex book was finished and the final volume will be published soon, but sadly without Ken to sign our copies. (C.H.)

JOE MUNSON

Yet another of the last links with the old days of milling has been lost with the death of Joe Munson in June. The Munson family had been at Thorington Street watermill, Stoke by Nayland, since 1889 and he was the last miller there, retiring over 20 years ago. His other duty as bailiff of this part of the River Box brought him close to the birds and fish, plant and insect life along the stream and he was a keen observer of nature. He loved the peace there and was always willing to share it with anyone interested. It was his wish that one day the mill would work regularly again. Let us hope it will. (C.H.)

PROGRESS AT THELNETHAM

Owing to lack of numbers and difficulties encountered with several jobs, the progress during the August 'work-in' was not as good as had been hoped. Nevertheless, many jobs were started and some completed. The old 'back' door was replaced entirely, complete with a set of old hinges salvaged from a demolished building. It was made an exact replica of the old one, complete with beaded joints. The old, and almost completely worn out 4ft 4ins millstones were taken apart and set up to run. This involved dynamic balancing and many hours filing the mace and balance iron to ensure that the stone was not 'cocked over' every time the drive was applied (the bar having been re-set since it last worked). Meanwhile the tun had been finished and a new spout and hopper provided. The stones are not yet right, as they have a smaller gap in the



Thelnetham mill

middle than around the edge - goodness knows how they got into that state! The runner stone will have to be lifted to sort them out properly. Even so, they produce a reasonable meal.

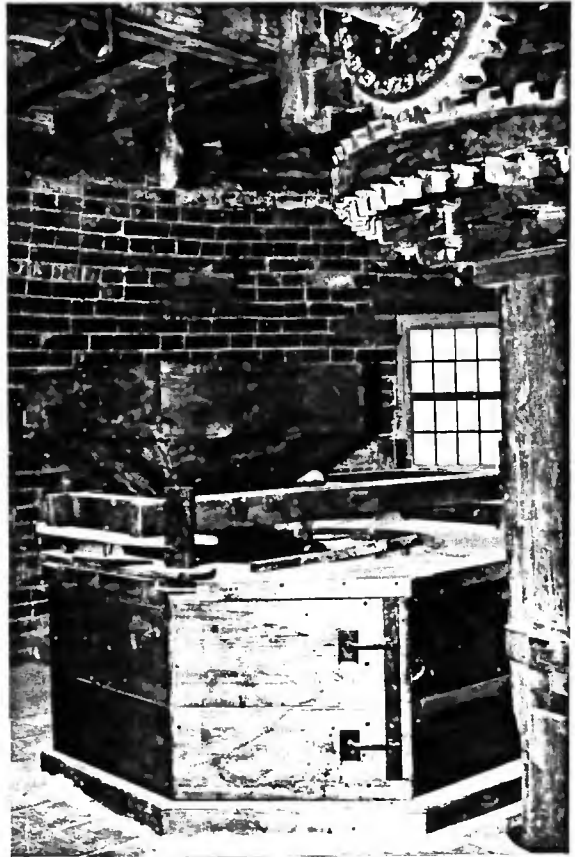
Other jobs under way were the complete re-painting of the shutters and the fantail. An old winnowing machine, donated by Richard Duke, was dismantled and repairs started to its many components. This will eventually be assembled on the bin floor. The only other task started was the long slog of plastering. Lack of numbers meant we had to settle for a demonstration by the Blue Circle representative, Dennis Hankin, himself an experienced plasterer. Blue Circle kindly supplied the plaster at little more than cost price, which was a great help.

At present an old E.R. & F. Turner oat crusher is being restored, together with a 'jumper' or reciprocating sieve salvaged from Tricker's Mill, Woodbridge many years ago by Chris Hullcoop. This will be set up for use as a flour dresser until such time as we can get our flour machine (a centrifugal) restored.

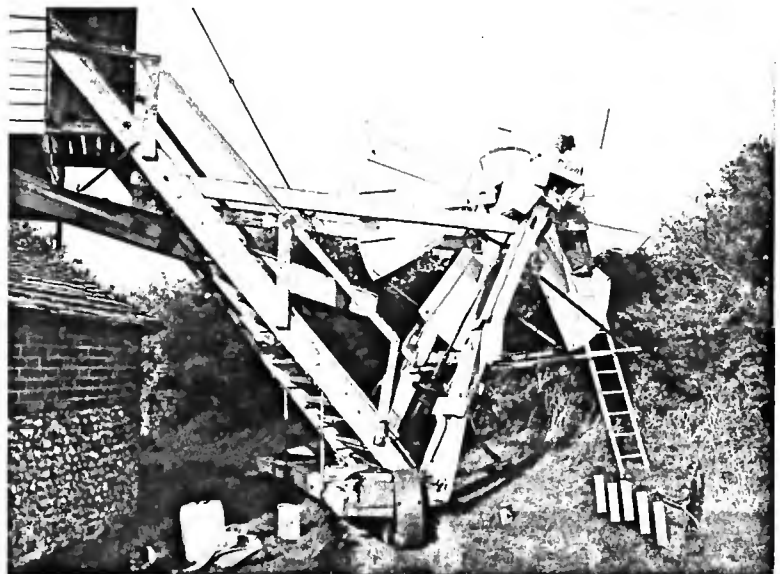
The mill remains open every weekend (mostly Sundays) until the end of October and will continue to be open most weekends throughout the winter to cope with the dual activities of milling and completing the restoration. Volunteer helpers always welcome! (P.D.)

WORK AT DRINKSTONE

This year we made a start on the overhaul of the winding gear. A gale in March had shown up a lot of faults which, if not put right, could have led to serious trouble. The six blades of the fly are now back to their former size and new tip stays have been fitted (see photo on right). The step strings have rotted where they join



The Inetham: stone furniture made during the 1986 work-in



the carriage so two special brackets have been fitted to spread the strain onto sound timber. Next year the rot will be cut away, pieces let in and the top surfaces of the strings capped with aluminium sheet. Wilfred Clover, the last miller, understood the importance of survival value and recognised danger points such as the post bases where he fitted simple little drippers to lead most water harmlessly away. He covered unprotected end grain when it was subject to run-off from above. We must follow his good example if our millwork is to have any lasting value. (C.H.)

TUDDENHAM WATERMILL

This mill, about two miles south east of Mildenhall, was recently the subject of a Building Preservation Notice served by the Forest Heath District Council. The mill was converted into a restaurant with living accommodation above in about 1972, leaving the main machinery untouched. Last year it was sold for a six-figure sum and in recent months work has started on internal refurbishment. We understand the District Council was anxious that the machinery was not removed.



In August I visited the mill and was quite impressed by the machinery, although the remainder of the interior is greatly altered. There is a 14ft 8ins diameter cast-iron breastshot waterwheel, still able to turn by water power. The remainder of the gear (briefly) includes a cast-iron pitwheel and wallower, wooden upright shaft with spur and crown wheels (both of wooden compass-arm construction) and two stone nuts driving 3ft 9ins diameter millstones from below. There is also a layshaft drive off the crownwheel for the sack-hoist. The exterior is also quite pleasant, with a lucam at the front and tall chimney of the old steam plant to the rear. (M.B.)

BUTTRUM'S MILL, WOODBRIDGE

The phased restoration of this very fine tower mill (maintained by the County Council) was completed in the early summer when Millwrights International turned their attention to the interior. Although the sails can turn, the object was not to get the mill working but to repair the machinery to the extent necessary to enable the public to understand exactly how it all functioned. In practice this has meant a lot of small tasks such as new belting to the numerous auxiliary drives, reinstating the sack-hoist, repairs to stone furniture, re-making bins and so on. On the structural side, support had to be given to the ends of many floorbeams where they went into the brickwork. This was done by fabricated steel brackets or

wooden corbels.

Other tasks included a new brick ground floor, a coat of lime tallow to the inside walls, minor re-pointing of the exterior and repairs to steps and some new safety rails. It was good to see a section of the old wooden curb and cast-iron track plate carefully conserved on the ground floor. (M.B.)

TIDE MILL GRANARY & SUFFOLK SEED STORE BUILDING, WOODBRIDGE

What is it that appeals to us in neglected or derelict buildings? They are shabby and leaky and many would dismiss them as eyesores. The tide mill granary (photo opposite) has changed little since its last working days and still contains hoists, shafting and machines. It is about to be converted to residential use with some public space on the ground floor. Being a granary it is



built to take hundreds of tons of grain, and has a huge frame every six feet or so. The 70ft by 30ft floors, completely without pillars or props, are fine spaces and their division into little boxes is rather like dividing a long gallery in a great house.

The Suffolk Seed Store on the town centre relief road is an old malting building whose future is in some doubt. Surely it will be converted and not demolished?

Inside these buildings, under the dirt and grease, names like Turner, Woods, Robinson and Whitmore and Binyon are revealed. About 15 years ago we saved and stored in the granary a fine Turner centrifugal from Felixstowe port roller mill which was undergoing a modernisation programme. This is now dismantled and stored at Buttrum's Mill. Rather too large for the average windmill, it really needs a home in a watermill. A Turner crusher has gone to Thelnetham along with one of the sifters from Tricker's Mill, rescued in 1974. From the Seed Store we hope to rescue a fine line-shaft with brackets, bearings and pulleys, a Turner elevator and some sack scales. We are indebted to Woodbridge Town Council and Suffolk Seed Stores Ltd. for giving us a free hand to remove these pieces.

The old quay at Woodbridge is a working environment of tide mill, boats and boatyards. We commented on the poor design of windows in an earlier plan and hope the final scheme is fitting to the area and not a poor imitation of something on the Med. However good the conversion, once a building becomes residential it is

never quite the same again. What a pity some use could not have been found for this noble building which retained the open spaces within. (C.H.)

CROSSWORD RESULT

The result of the prize crossword which appeared in the January 1986 Newsletter is as follows. Robert Cumming won first prize (£12 book token) and Pam Cockle second prize (£5 book token). 17 entries were received in all, of which all but one were correct.

The solution is as follows.

Across 4.Wind; 6.Fan/Fly; 7.Aythorpe; 8.Iron; 9.Danzey Green; 12.Rap; 14.Eastry; 16.Cross; 17.Plan; 18.Hoop; 20.Wixoe; 21.Evans; 23.Syson; 25.Reydon; 26.In Hand; 29.Canister; 31.Poll; 32.Roding; 33.St

Down 1.Saddle; 2.Stones; 3.Grey; 4.Weir; 5.Drinkstone; 6.Floor; 10.Earnley; 11.Ears; 13.Pole; 15.Apling; 17.Postmill; 18.Harrison; 19.Osyth; 21.End; 22.Moon; 24.Sifter; 27.Air; 28.Dust; 29.Cap; 30.Rod

NEWS IN BRIEF

Earlier in the summer the second new pair of sails at Pakenham was put up, using the old metal stock, now re-welded. The fantail was also repaired. At the time of writing however the shutters are still not in place and the other work, comprising the construction of new doors and windows and a general re-paint, has yet to be commenced. It is hoped that this work will be put in hand before too long, for the repairs to this mill have been dragging on for what seems like an eternity. (P.D.)

The re-painting of Framsden mill has continued during the summer months. The right hand side of the buck has now been completed and work on the tail is well advanced, leaving the steps and sails which will possibly be tackled in 1987. The left side and head were painted last year. Brian Flint, who has been doing the work, says that the general condition of the weatherboards, put on between 1966 and 1968, is excellent.

An application has been made to Suffolk Coastal District Council for Listed Building Consent to demolish and rebuild the remains of the steam mill attached to Kelsale mill. Both the mill tower and steam mill are gutted of machinery, the steam mill also suffering the loss of the third floor at some stage. In view of its incomplete state and relatively poor condition, S.M.G. did not object. The proposed rebuilding reproduces the window detail of the original, and will be faced with salvaged white brick. The new building will be part of the conversion of the mill into a single dwelling.

On the subject of conversions, attention is drawn to Badley watermill on the River Gipping. This gutted nineteenth century brick mill suffered a serious fire a year or two back but a conversion scheme still went ahead, the lucam being replaced.

A short distance downstream is Hawks Mill, Needham Market, where conversion into flats is nearing completion. The 2 and 3-bed flats are being offered from £47,750.

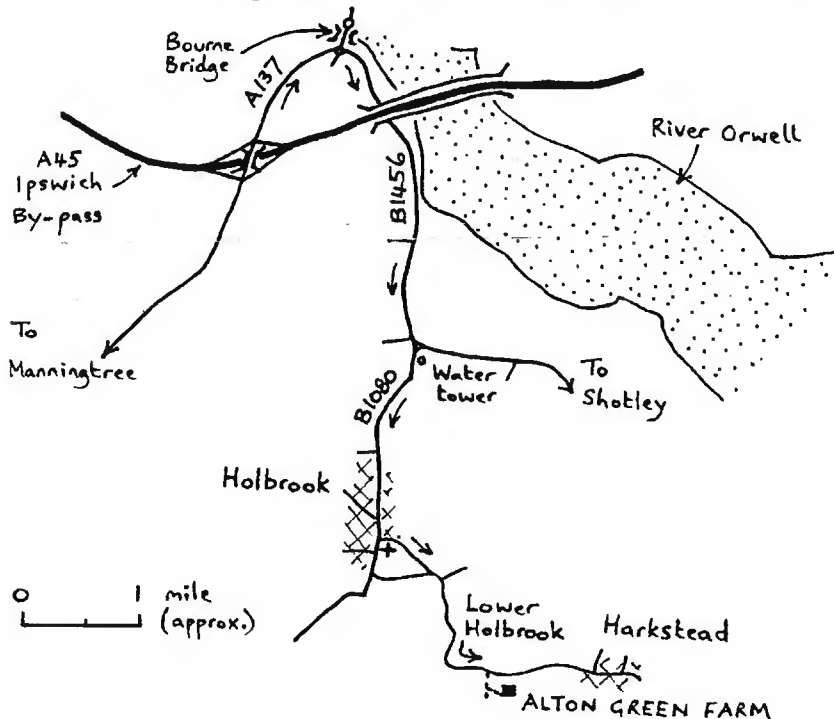
EVENTS

S.M.G. SOCIAL EVENING: SATURDAY DECEMBER 13th, from 7.30 pm., at ALTON GREEN FARMHOUSE, HOLBROOK

This year's social evening is being hosted by Richard and Annie Duke at Alton Green Farm, Lower Holbrook (5 miles south of Ipswich). In many ways this seems appropriate as 1986 has seen Richard and Annie commence their restoration of Stanton mill, helped by the S.M.G. summer 'work-ins'. In the past our social evenings have proved very popular and we hope this record will be continued. Please bring along some slides if you can. Needless to say there'll be plenty of goodies to munch and perhaps even the odd glass of wine!

Alton Green Farm is quite straightforward to find if you follow the map below. Where you turn off the metalled road we will put out some arrows to direct you.

We are most grateful to Richard and Annie for their hospitality.



Turn off Ipswich bypass at A137 interchange. Proceed north to Bourne Bridge, Ipswich, & then take B1456 Shotley road. After two miles bear right onto B1080. In Holbrook village take first left, onto a minor road, after which Lower Holbrook will be reached in just over a mile. Alton Green Farm is on the south side of this road (look for arrows).

PUBLIC OPEN AFTERNOON AT HERRINGFLEET MARSH MILL: THURSDAY JANUARY 1st 1987; 1-3.30pm.

We are resuming our traditional New Year's Day working of Herringfleet mill and extend a warm welcome to any members who would like to attend. The marshes take on a different character during the winter and it is at this time of the year when one can start to appreciate what a hard life a marshman had to endure.

As usual this is a public open day and will be advertised locally. There is usually plenty of wind on these winter occasions but if there is ice or snow as well please 'phone Mark Barnard (Ipswich 77853) to check if the mill will be open.

Advance Notice

The S.M.G. public meeting in February 1987 will be on the subject of modern wind engines. The exact date is Saturday February 21st and the venue, Ipswich Town Hall.