

SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter

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Several months have passed since the last Newsletter. Our main event during this time was the February public meeting on wind power which provoked a lot of interest and attracted one of our largest-ever audiences in Ipswich Town Hall. As a result of this meeting we gained several new members, and these I would like to welcome in the hope that they will be able to come along to more of our events. I hope that the membership will gradually grow over the coming months as our publicity / membership leaflet gets distributed.

Next on the agenda are the annual work-ins, no less than three this year, although it is true that one is outside our territory in Cambridgeshire! Dates and further details appear inside. Our tenth anniversary meeting mooted for this summer has had to be postponed. We now hope to make '10 Years of S.M.G.' the theme for our next winter meeting.

Mark Barnard

WHITMORE & BINYON REMINISCENCES DAVID BARTON

In 1908 my maternal grandfather, George Ernest Johnson, who had been a gardener at The Red House (now The Dower House), Ufford bought Featherbroome, Messrs. Whitmore & Binyon's stabling in Chapel Lane, Wickham Market. The fortunes of the firm had come to a sudden end early in 1901 which was a great shock to the townspeople. My grandfather laboured to convert the farmyard into a nursery, digging up masses of slag in the process. It had been the practice of the firm to collect the foundry slag and cart it up the hill for tipping in the yard. Featherbroome has since been demolished and the site is now occupied by two bungalows and six houses. The various owners can still unearth lumps of slag in their gardens.

My father having served in the 74th (Welsh) Field Ambulance Brigade of the R.A.M.C. during the Great War, and being billeted with my grandparents, chose to marry one of their three daughters in 1920. Two years later I was born at Featherbroome and I like to regard that event as my connection with the famous millwrights. I grew up in Cardiff but most holidays were spent at Wickham Market with my grandparents.

My first recollection of being aware of the firm came in the question, 'And how's Mary Ann Street?'. Old Mr. Glanfield, a former employee, would look over the gate beside the Workhouse Cottages and pass the time of day with anyone going up and down the lane. In his younger days he had been sent to Cardiff to install milling machinery in Spillers' Mill in the West Dock, which was derelict

when I was a boy. Lodging had been provided in the most notorious street in the city, where the policemen patrolled in pairs. It was said the beds were never cold as the workers on nights took the place of those departing on days! Sadly he recalled the blighted lives of the stone dressers who suffered from pneumonococcosis.

When I grew older I would be despatched to Rackham's Mills, water and steam, to order coal for the family. Wandering down Bridge Street I would pass the gateway of the former works with the flanking office buildings and the iron gateposts, still in situ, with their spiked finials. Similar finials can be seen on the gateposts of a house in Bishops Hill, Ipswich, where a windmill formerly stood, which suggests that these too are of Whitmore & Binyon origin. At last I would turn off just before the bridge over the Deben, where incidentally some Whitmore & Binyon railings flank the old road to Campsea Ashe. Perhaps the waterwheel would be turning, fed by the Whitmore & Binyon patent sluice whereby water hit the paddles towards the bottom of the wheel imparting greatly increased power. There was the hum of machinery in the steam mill attended by Mr. Pizzey and wisps of smoke coming from the chimney stack.

No order was ever delivered before I had crept up to the engine room window and watched the rhythmic beat of the single cylinder horizontal engine with its massive flywheel and belt drive. Most intriguing was the lubricator mounted on the guard rail that fed the big-end by an S-shaped pipe that turned in company with the crank. The warm air would be redolent with steam oil. For many years this beautiful engine stood rusty and lifeless in the Museum of East Anglian Life at Stowmarket and has now been refurbished in the Boby building. Possibly it ought to have remained in the village in its original setting as a memorial to the men of Wickham Market and the works whose products were exported far and wide.

Reuben Rackham, whose two sons Reuben and Robert succeeded him in the business, opened the roller mill in 1894 and prospective Whitmore & Binyon customers would often visit the model installation. The mill ceased production in 1961 and I was privileged on one occasion to see the brothers demonstrate the working of the watermill.

The Whitmore & Binyon story is a considerably longer one and has been researched by Mr. K.S. Masters of Hacheston and the members of the Wickham Market Historical Society. It has its beginnings in 1780 with Nathaniel Whitmore (born 1768) who died in 1812, leaving the business to be run by his widow until his son, John (1801-72), came of age in 1822. He is erroneously described as 'THE FOUNDER OF "THE IRON WORKS" IN THIS PARISH' on his grave-stone in the churchyard. The posts and chains round his memorial, made in the works, were removed during the last war. He built the former Town Hall and was succeeded by two more generations before the firm's closure, in William

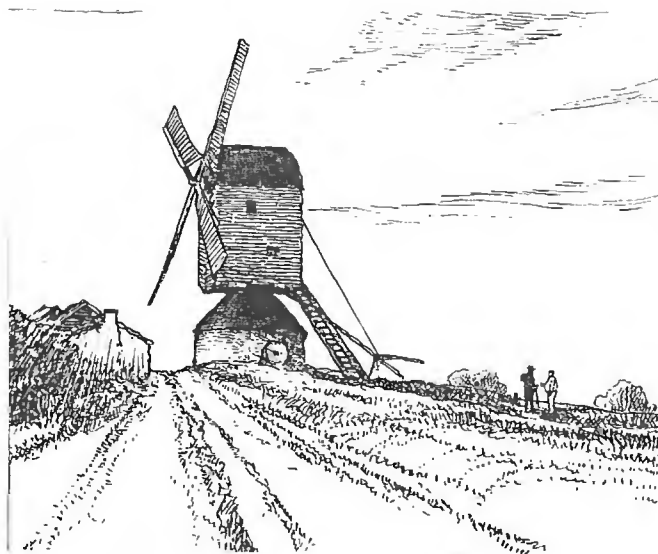
Nathaniel (1833-1909) and William John (1861-1938). The other partner in the business, George Binyon, ran the London office in Mark Lane in the City for 33 years. The surviving members of the family met at Wickham Market at the Historical Society evening in April 1979.

The only item of Whitmore & Binyon property to come into my hands is a drawing of a 30ft diameter waterwheel, 6ft wide, now in the possession of Brian Flint. No clue is offered as to the location of its installation but no doubt the drawing came from the Drawing Office overlooking Bridge Street and is a specimen of a lost art, the making of scale drawings on tracing cloth, a material that is probably now unobtainable. Did the anonymous draughtsman, working away by gaslight perhaps, seek comfort in The Volunteer across the street at the end of the customary twelve-hour day before returning to hearth and home one wonders? Further reminiscences must await another article.

MILLS AND ME (2) PETER STEGGALL POST, TOWER AND SMOCK IN ESSEX

Early in 1949 I escaped from the London rat race and started working in Chelmsford for Essex County Council, in a section which looked after the legal and administrative work of the council as planning authority. We found ourselves desperately trying to absorb and implement the masses of new regulations and circulars arising from the first comprehensive Town and Country Planning Act (1947) which had come into effect only six months before. Among its planning functions, the county council had powers and duties to protect buildings of architectural and historic interest, and soon after I started at Chelmsford I began to notice County Planning Committee agenda items concerning windmills.

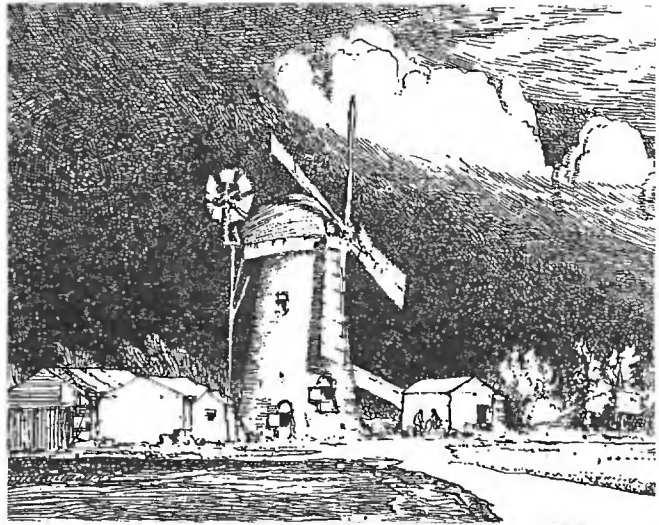
In particular, I remember Mountnessing, Stock and Upminster being taken under the council's wing and being restored. By a coincidence, I knew a little about those three from one of a series of topographical books written and illustrated by Donald Maxwell in the inter-war years. 'A Detective in Essex' was published in 1933; Chapter VI was entitled 'The Clue of the Three Jolly Millers'. On a car journey, the author 'was brought up all standing by the exceeding beauty of a scene at Mountnessing'. There, 'relieved against the sunset sky, stood an old 'smock' windmill', which he drew there and then 'just as it was'. He decided to investigate the relationship between the price of wheat and of bread. After meeting the jolly miller of



Mountnessing post mill

Mountnessing, Mr. Walter Agnis, who told him the mill was no longer working and that an engine now did all the grinding, Donald Maxwell went home to Kent to buy a sack of wheat. He 'set it up in the back of the car and drove off' to Tilbury Ferry where its likeness to a dead body caused a mild sensation.

Back at Mountnessing, the miller told him it would be unprofitable to grind such a small quantity, and referred him to Stock. There he found and drew the tall, impressive tower mill 'in a shaft of light which caused it to stand out with dramatic effect against the dark and rain-filled distance'. The sails were



Stock tower mill

awaiting repair, but the machinery was operated by a belt drive from an oil engine in a shed. Donald Maxwell then received a telegram from a friend advising him that 'Abraham of Upminster could grind it for you'. So he took his sack there, and there it still was as the book went to press, and readers never learned how much it cost the author to convert the grain into bread. However, he made a delightful sketch of 'The Tower



Upminster smock mill

Mill of Upminster' and departed.

Some twenty years later these three mills were saved by Essex County Council and are still being maintained. Mountnessing, a post mill, not a smock mill, and Stock, are owned by the County Council; Upminster, a smock mill, not a tower mill, was taken over by the new London Borough of Havering when metropolitan Essex became part of Greater London in 1965.

Not being personally involved with the arrangements for restoring these mills, I acquired virtually no technical knowledge, but, by the time I moved to Suffolk in 1962, I did at least know whether a windmill was 'post', 'tower' or 'smock'! Next time, I shall explain how I learned a little more about mills.

VANISHED MILLS PETER DOLMAN

LAYNG'S MILL, NEWMARKET

Hodskinson's map of 1783 marks two mills at Newmarket, and old racing

prints sometimes show a post mill or two in the background.

One of Hodskinson's sites, at Grid Ref. 637,638, was at Mill Hill, along the road to Exning. The last mill, a small smock mill of the East Cambridgeshire type, was probably built in the early 1800's or possibly at the end of the 18th century. The Cambridge Chronicle advertised it for sale in 1824 as 'All that Capital SMOCK WINDMILL with 2 pair of French Stones 4ft.10 and 4ft. 7, Flour Machine, Flour Mill, Jumper & c... late the property of Thomas Bowyer Esq. deceased.' It was at pains to point out that it was 'the only one in the parish'.

'Mr Barnes' was in control in 1832, when the Suffolk Chronicle recorded the death of his daughter. White's directory of 1844 lists Joseph Halls as miller and the millwrights Hunts of Soham carried out various repairs for him in 1844-5 when a new curb and jumper were fitted, amongst other items.

William Simpson was miller for many years (Kelly's directory 1853, 1858; White's 1874; Kelly's 1885, when 'wind & steam' are listed as motive power).

It was advertised for auction in 1886 in glowing terms:

A Fine TOWER WINDMILL - of substantial erection, with 3 floors, driving 2 pairs of French Stones, Patent Sails and Fantail, and all the going and running gears complete. Also a substantially erected brick and slate built STEAM CORN MILL, containing 2 floors, worked by a six-horse power horizontal cylinder fixed steam Engine, and Ten-horse power Boiler, by 'Turner & Co.' of Ipswich, driving 2 pairs of French Stones, with Engine and Boiler House... sack lifting Apparatus, Exhaust, Smut and Dressing Machines, Shafting for pumping water &c &c.

It would seem to have been bought by George Saitch, who ran the Horseshoe Inn and weighbridge in Upper Station Road. Kelly's 1888 directory lists Mrs. George Saitch as miller and innkeeper and the 1892 directory properly identifies her



as Mrs. Rebecca Saitch.

Hunts of Soham carried out minor repairs in 1890-1 for Mrs. Saitch, who presumably had a journeyman miller at the mill. Kelly's 1904 directory lists a firm of High Street grocers, run by George Freestone Layng, as millers and from the 1912 directory up to 1929 they traded as Layng & Co.. Kelly's 1933 directory lists them as Corn Merchants only, at Exning Road, although the mill apparently worked right up to its demolition in 1934 and was kept in good order until then.

There was a short two-storey octagonal tower on a single-storey brick base. The smock had received Hunt's customary tarred vertical boarding, probably on top of the original horizontal boarding. The white cap was conical, with a vertical petticoat and an eight-bladed fantail. The four double-shuttered clockwise patent sails were of Hunt's usual pattern with narrow vanes and were worked by a striking lever.

There was an iron windshaft with, unusually, an iron brakewheel with beech cogs. The wallower and great spur wheel, which was 10ft 6ins diameter and drove two pairs of stones underdrift, were also iron, on a wooden upright shaft. The mortice stone nuts were lifted out of gear by a screw-operated jack ring, again a typical local feature. The tail beam was of cast iron, another unusual feature. The extensive use of cast iron suggests either a late refit or a building date of later than c.1830. I favour the former, perhaps coinciding with the erection of the steam mill.

Newmarket mill was so typical of its local type in appearance, a type which just edged into Suffolk from within its Cambridgeshire home, that it tended to escape attention, being almost a mile from the town centre. Its rapid demolition was unfortunate, but only one of many at this time. Few of this type of mill survive, Fulbourn being a rather stocky example, Swaffham Prior a ruin and Wicken a slightly larger version, albeit 12-sided. Once, east Cambridgeshire and west Suffolk has scores like it.

Up-date on BLYTHBURGH SMOCK MILL (Newsletter No.33)

In my article on Suffolk's only known 12-sided smock mill I made some suggestions (based on folk memories noted by Stanley Freese in the 1930's) of what it looked like and suggested that a photograph was reputed to exist.

Recently a visitor to Thelnetham mill one Sunday presented me with a copy of this very picture, the original of which is owned by a Mr. Fisk of Reydon. It is tantalisingly faint, but is good enough to confirm, or refute, several points in my article.

The mill appears to have just had a major overhaul in the photograph, as two common sails are lying on the ground by the mill. There was a deeply hooded boat-shaped cap with a curved ridge and a six-blade fantail tacked on the back, probably of very recent construction. The cap was white, the fantail had coloured

radial stripes on a white background and there was a large striking wheel under the fanstage.

The sails were all double-shuttered patents, running anti-clockwise, and the outer pair had been widened with a fixed board along the whole leading edge.

The stack of a portable steam engine rises from a shed and there are two engine pulleys on the mill, one at second floor level (presumably engaging with the crown wheel) and one nearly at ground level, driving one pair of stones direct, as noted in the article. Unfortunately the photograph is too faint to reproduce.

LETTER

S.M.G. member Len Ball of Acton, near Sudbury, writes with news of two recent publications which will be of interest to local mill historians.

Recently published by the Long Melford History and Archaeology Society is a reproduction of a map dated 1580 of the manor of Melford Hall. The original map measures 100"x80" in size, the reproduction is 18½"x15½" and is to a scale of approximately three miles to the inch. There are two windmills shown. The first is at Lavenham, at about where the remains of the tower mill are (Grid Ref. 915499). The other is shown at Shimpling at approximately 858523 and is some distance from the two sites listed by Brian Flint in his book 'Suffolk Windmills'. It is marked as Locks Myll and Tenement. There are a total of seven watermills shown: Stansted (Stanstead) Mylle (858479); Glensforde (Glemsford) Myll (844472); Hun Myll (Bush Boake Allen factory covers the site) (848458); Lyston (Liston) Myll (856449); Wyffyndall (Withindale) Myll (857443); Borly (Borley) Myll (858430); Hall Myll (865460). All these map references were estimated from the reproduction map in conjunction with a Pathfinder series 1:25000 map.

Another recent publication is a history of Great Waldingfield, the full title being 'The Babergh Village, the story of Great Waldingfield' by Louise Kenyon. In it there is a map showing the manors of the parish between 1066 and 1400. There are three windmills shown; one is on the site of the mill listed in Brian Flint's book (906438), and the other two at approximately 915441 and 916439. According to the notes about the map, all three mills were there by 1341. The one at 915441 was on church land, therefore presumably owned by the church, and the other two were owned by lords. The information on the mills comes from a document called 'Inquisitiones Nonarum' dated 1341, and states 'Tithe of 3 mills worth 10s. p.a.'. The last miller of the smock mill at 906438 was Charles Poole, in 1896. The mill was disused by 1901 and demolished in 1912.

NEWS

MILLS FOR SALE

The owner of the converted Tiptree tower mill, Essex, is looking for a sympathetic purchaser. Following the refusal of planning consent for office use (see Newsletter 36), the adjacent granary is to be demolished to allow access to some

backland which is to be developed for housing. The accommodation in the mill comprises lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom, with oil-fired central heating and a garage. Although converted, the 1775 tower is complete internally with all three pairs of stones; the only things missing are the stone nuts. The tower carries the original cap, which requires some attention. Offers are sought in the region of a very reasonable £60,000 and owner Clifford Jacques can be contacted on Chelmsford 268552.

Two Suffolk mills on the market at the moment are at Badley and Cockfield. Badley watermill, on the River Gipping between Needham Market and Stowmarket, was recently converted into a house, none of the machinery surviving a gutting in the mid 1950's. 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, about 3 acres including river frontage - all for £185,000. Sole agents are Hockley & Co., Ipswich. Cockfield mill is a small empty tower built as late as 1891, and last worked by wind power in 1908. The mill, house and outbuildings are on the books of Abbotts' Bury St. Edmunds office at £95,000.

SCOUT LEADERS HELP MILLS

A couple of years ago the local Scout support group constructed the walls of the new storage building at Thelnetham. They enjoyed that weekend and this year we have been able to harness their energy and skill at Stanton, Drinkstone and Herringfleet.

May day bank holiday weekend saw them camped at Stanton and constructing the new winding track. Each day four of their number came over to Drinkstone to work on the old railway carriage. The winter gales had blown much of the covering from the sides and it badly needed attention. Vertical laths were fitted and plywood nailed to this frame, entirely covering both sides. This was then covered with two layers of stout horticultural plastic troughing, some of which has been on the adjacent smock tower for eight years and is still as good as ever.

We also started work on fitting a lightning conductor to the post mill, always a tricky job on a post mill turning to wind with a fly. At Saxtead and Holton mills a ring of copper tape is fitted around the winding track with a contact plate running against it. This would be difficult and costly at Drinkstone so we are trying a contact ring under the buck. A laminated plywood ring will support conductor tape bent to a 5ft. diameter circle, joined to the conductor from the sails. From below a spring plate will maintain contact down to an earth rod as the mill moves into the wind.

Our Scouting friends were with us again at the Herringfleet open day on May 17th. when they cleared some of the water channels now rapidly becoming choked with weed and mud. This damp and messy job was not helped by poor weather which eventually turned to a downpour. They set to with a will though, clearing out the reeds and their roots, assorted junk and much evil-smelling

mud. They hope to be with us again at our next Herringfleet open day later this year. (C.H.)

THELNETHAM NEWS

After much hacking away with a mill bill the 4ft 4ins French stones are now reasonably flat (both the runner and bed stone had been slightly convex) and are now producing saleable flour without a constant smell of 'stone burn'.

Unfortunately the wind was not strong enough to run both pairs when the S.P.A.B. visited the mill on the day tour in May; they had to be content with one pair going on the minimum feed possible - output about $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. per hour! Still, there are quite a few restored windmills which wouldn't even run light in such a gentle breeze. None of the S.P.A.B. party made remarks about 'hidden electric motors' but the following week a visitor made the quite serious remark as he was leaving of 'Where's the electric motor?' and looked quite incredulous when it was suggested to him that windmills were driven by the wind...!

A current project is the reassembly of a Turner Roller Crusher which we hope to drive by wind power later in the year.

The mill misbehaved recently by smashing two shutters. The wood had expanded slightly since their construction, allowing them to lock together when closed. On opening the shutters, two stayed closed, with splitting results! The moral is, leave an adequate gap all round shutters (at least three-sixteenths of an inch).

The rev. counter on the windshaft, fitted last July, has now reached 85,000. We hope to make 100,000 in the year (at an average of 8 r.p.m. that's 200 hours of running approximately - not much compared to what a mill must have done in commercial work).

The mill is open, free of charge, every Sunday until the end of October and may be seen working on as many occasions as the wind will allow. (P.D.)

HAWKS MILL

On a cold wet and windy boat race Saturday I met with Norfolk millwright Richard Seago and Frank Silver of the development company at Hawks Mill, Needham Market, to plan the replacement of the controls for the Armfield turbine. It would have been nice if S.M.G. could have done this work but we just do not have sufficient manpower. As Richard Seago and I had dismantled the controls, he was the best man to replace them. A couple of years ago for its protection Geoff Burton, the previous owner, had put the gear into a shed on the old mill house premises of Mr. Steward, the funeral director. It took us an hour or so to walk all the pieces back to the mill and we were soon puzzling out how to fit them. Originally they were fitted on the floor above and away from the turbine, but this space is now someone's living room. After much thinking and re-thinking we devised a location for them within the turbine room and Richard Seago measured up for the supports he had to make.

Everything is now in place and the turbine will 'tick over' quite well. Let's

hope someone responsible and interested enough can be found either in the mill flats or in the town who will hold the key and demonstrate the turbine to small groups of visitors. As promised to the company, we will provide a small display explaining how the turbine works. Has any member a copy of the booklet 'Armfields of Ringwood' (now out of print) that we could borrow to copy illustrations for this display? (C.H.)

IXWORTH WATERMILL

S.M.G. has recently offered help to Mrs. Rogers at her fine watermill just outside Ixworth on the River Blackbourn. Some first aid work done soon will prevent the inevitable deterioration of this splendid mill, listed Grade II^{*}. The slate-clad roof has an area of slates missing near the ridge and we hope to patch this before next winter. Some weatherboards are also missing and there are large windowless window openings (see photo opposite). Internally the mill is quite complete and contains fine and interesting machinery. The timber frame is in very good condition and there are numerous beautifully-cut inscriptions, including '18 I + LOWE 00' on the timber supporting the foot of the upright shaft (photo opposite). The wheel is low breast-shot with open buckets, a nice contrast to Pakenham, a high breast wheel with closed buckets. Pakenham has a much greater fall but a smaller volume of water; Ixworth has a lower fall but all the water from the Pakenham brook plus the main river. The water supply is intact with the by-pass sluices in good order. Further downstream the watermills at Bardwell,



Sapiston and Euston have had their water supply spoiled with little hope of reinstatement. This has not happened at Ixworth and it would be possible for the mill to work again one day. (C.H.)

BARDWELL WINDMILL CHANGES HANDS

Bardwell mill, reported as for sale in our last Newsletter, has been purchased by Mr. Derek Wheeler from Buckinghamshire. We understand he is keen to keep the mill working but we do not yet know whether he will be in as large a way of business as the Waterfields were, or how the opening arrangements will be affected. It is gratifying that an interested person has bought the mill and will continue to operate it.

The Waterfield family acquired Bardwell mill $4\frac{1}{2}$ years ago and quickly restored it to working order, at first by oil engine and finally by wind power. They did Suffolk a great service by restoring the mill, one of only four complete tower mills in the county and now an asset to the village scene. It is remarkable how through hard work James Waterfield quickly established a profitable stoneground flour business, proving it can be done, even with an 'old fashioned' windmill. The Waterfields are moving up in the windmill world, having acquired the fine Maud Foster five-sailer at Boston, Lincolnshire. James says he hopes to have Maud Foster mill working within 12 months. Meanwhile he is keeping his hand in at Alford mill, another five-sailer, which he is working every Saturday (when it is open to the public).

Suffolk Mills Group wishes James and his family well in their new venture. (P.D.)

HOLTON MILL REPAIRS

During the winter Holton post mill was given a new fan carriage and a complete re-paint, the work being done by Holes of Sussex. A lightning conductor has also been fitted, modelled on the system at Saxtead Green post mill, with a copper ring fixed to the winding track and a pressure contact mounted on the fan carriage.

CROSSWORD RESULT

There were 21 entries for the 1987 S.M.G. crossword competition in the last Newsletter, all of them correct, from John & Rhoda Bedington, John Spencer, Robert Cumming, Peter Dolman, Rosemary Dennis, Cliff Lovett, Len Ball, Roland Smith, Alan Wallis, Brian Flint, E. Goatcher, Peter Hill, Jo Roberts, Pam Cockle, Russell Jones, Michael Hunt, Richard Seago, Chris Seago, John Pelling, Duncan Breckels and Martin Watts.

The prizewinners, drawn at our public meeting on February 21st, were Russell Jones (£12 book token) and Mr. E. Goatcher (£5 book token). The solution is as follows.

ACROSS 4 Bin 5 Hill 7 Elevator 9 Argos 10 Dekker 12 Spouts 13 Steelyard 16 Start
18 Tailpoles 20 Tar 22 Stone Dresser 25 Alde 26 Adzes 30 Rynd 31 Heage
32 Lode 33 Tenters 34 Soke

DOWN 1 Dead 2 Meikle 3 Vane 4 Brayer 6 Lighter 8 Composite 11 Reynolds
14 Thaxted 15 Eel 17 Art 19 Eye 21 Aldred 23 Screws 24 Raddle 27 Zaan
28 Shoe 29 Bays

EVENTS

S.M.G WORK-INS AT STANTON POST MILL: 4th-12th JULY and 22nd-31st AUGUST

We are holding two 'work-ins' this summer at Stanton post mill, at the beginning of July (earlier than usual) and at the end of August. Since last year's work-ins Richard Duke and Fred Davis have been busy reconstructing the winding gear and are now preparing the substructure prior to jacking so that the post can be made vertical again. Through winter I have made 82 new beech teeth for the spurwheel and hope to fit them late this year. Chris Wilson is making a pair of sail frames at Over this summer.

At the work-ins we hope to complete the head and rebuild the right side of the buck. With work still going on at Thelnetham and just commencing at Wicken our forces are becoming diluted. We particularly need support at the first work-in, held early so as not to clash with the Wicken week (see below).

For those who do not know the mill and its surroundings it is a fine place to work and camp. The 1751 post mill is being restored to work again and will be the only working post mill in Suffolk. Surrounding it are well mown lawns, which are ideal for tents, and a wash room with flush toilet. There are shops and pubs just five minutes walk away in the village centre. Anyone interested please contact me on Ipswich 715161 (work). (Chris Hullcoop)

WORK-IN AT WICKEN MILL: 25th JULY - 2nd AUGUST

A reminder that the newly-formed Wicken Windmill Preservation Group will be working at the mill, mainly on floors, windows and doors, in late July. All welcome! Please contact Dave Pearce (Horsham 53909) or Peter Dolman (Maldon 58440) if you would like to help.

OPEN DAYS AT BUTTRUM'S MILL, WOODBRIDGE (SEPTEMBER 6th) and HERRINGFLEET SMOCK DRAINAGE MILL (SEPTEMBER 13th)

Two of the County Council maintained mills will be open in early September as part of a promotion of European Year of the Environment (EYE) when a package of special events will receive widespread publicity. One of the County Council's EYE projects is the creation of a small car park for visitors to Buttrum's Mill on part of the adjacent school playing field.

FRENCH MILL TOUR 1988

Roy Berry is hoping to organise a trip to France next summer to look at some of their windmills. The areas which might be toured include the Nord, Beauce and Anjou, although no firm details have yet been decided. If you think you might be interested please contact Roy at Winstree Cottage, Peldon Road, Abberton, Colchester, Essex.

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