

SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter

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Secretary: PETER DOLMAN
3, St. Mary's Close,
Bramford, Ipswich IP8 4DL

Editor: MARK BARNARD
41, Melbourne Road, Ipswich IP4 5PP



This edition of the newsletter has been somewhat delayed owing to pressure on my spare time from several directions, and it was necessary to send out a separate notification of our December social evening. Less than two months away as I write, on 27th February, is our annual public meeting. The theme will be renewable energy sources, something which proved extremely popular when we held a meeting on the subject in 1987. Events for Spring and early summer will be announced in the next newsletter due just before Easter.

May I say a 'thank you' to those of you who have sent me material for the newsletter over the last few months. These contributions are greatly valued. I hope to be 'word processing' the newsletter just as soon as I have time to learn how to use the technology, but for the moment I am typewriting in the interests of speed.

May I wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year.

Mark Barnard

SOME NOTABLE MILL AUTHORS & HISTORIANS

NICK NICHOLAS

Marjorie I. Batten The first Windmill Secretary of the then Windmill Section of S.P.A.B., she wrote 'English Windmills' Vol.1 in 1930 for the Society and published by the Architectural Press, London. The book dealt with the counties of Surrey, Kent and Sussex. Donald Smith wrote 'English Windmills' Vol.2 in 1932 covering the Home Counties. It was the intention to publish a series of books by county, but the books didn't sell well and were remaindered, as finance was not available to continue with the project.

Stanley Harman Freese (1902-1972) His interest began on holiday at Darsham, Suffolk in 1923. He cycled all over the British Isles sketching and photographing mills. He lived at South Heath near Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire and retired to Wenhaston, Suffolk in 1964 where his interest in Suffolk windmills was to continue. 'In Search of English Windmills' was published in 1931 by Cecil Palmer, London. 'Windmills and Millwrighting' appeared in 1957 published by Cambridge University Press, and was later reprinted by David & Charles in 1971. He collaborated with Brian Flint in the compilation of a book on Suffolk mills and his contributions are now included in 'Suffolk Windmills' by Brian Flint, published by Boydell Press, Woodbridge. His other book was 'The Ten Year Plan', Cecil Palmer, 1932.

Karl Wood (1888-1958) Born in Nottingham, he settled in Gainsborough,

Lincolnshire where he was art master at Gainsborough grammar school. He had his own art studio and undertook private tuition in several subjects including painting, piano and singing lessons. Painting tuition resulted in sketching bicycle tours into Lincolnshire with his pupils. His first windmill painting was completed in 1926 and by 1956 he had completed 1,394 windmill paintings!

It was Karl Wood's intention to publish a book on British windmills to be called 'The Twilight of the Mills', based on his extensive travels by bicycle. Sadly this did not transpire. However his 'Lincolnshire Windmills' in 4 parts appeared in the Lincolnshire Magazine in 1936 and 1937. Fortunately the definitive and first complete published account of the county can be found in Peter Dolman's 'Lincolnshire Windmills' published by Lincolnshire County Council in 1986. Karl Wood's paintings are now housed in the Usher Art Gallery, Lincoln.

Herbert Edward Sydney Simmons (1901-1973) Born at Washington, Sussex, he worked for many years at the Ministry of Defence. During the war years he served in the R.A.F., being stationed in Warwickshire and East Anglia. He died in Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex, his home for many years. His vast collection of some 240 folders of typed notes and approximately 300 maps, all arranged by county, were given to the Science Museum library by Mrs. Simmons in 1974. It is complimented by about 2,000 negatives which he prepared during his travels.

His intention was to produce a book on Sussex windmills, and to this effect he published a list in the Sussex County Magazine of some 400 sites he had located. The book sadly never materialised, but of course the survey and historical notes can be consulted in the Science Museum library. He wrote several articles on mills for the Sussex County Magazine.

Alfred W. Tiffin Formerly of Staplehurst, Kent, he visited all the windmills of Kent from 1924-33 and had intended compiling his own book, when a miller friend told him that William Coles Finch was engaged in similar work. The resulting book by Coles Finch, 'Watermills and Windmills', 1933, was revised and proofed by Mr. Tiffin and he supplied 129 out of the 322 illustrations. Writing in 1934 in the Sussex County Magazine, he announced it was his intention to compile and publish a complete survey of Sussex windmills in collaboration with Mr. Simmons who was, of course, also surveying Sussex windmills at this time, as Coles Finch was unable to take on the task.

William Coles Finch Born in the 1860's and died in the 1940's, he was the boss of the Water Company in Chatham, Kent. His address was 'Waterworks House'. Dorothy Wright, his daughter, was still living in Chatham in the late 1970's. Coles Finch wandered around the Kent countryside in the early part of this century collecting information, interviewing milling families, and amassed a vast photographic collection. His monumental work 'Watermills and Windmills' containing historical and photographic records of 410 Kentish windmills was published in

1933 by the C.W. Daniel Company, London. It is of interest that the published price was then 15s. (75p.), but circa 1938 it was remaindered at 7s.6d. (37½p.). A first edition on the secondhand book market can prove quite costly, if located. A reprint appeared in 1976 produced by Arthur Cassell of Sheerness, Kent. It was this last that prompted BBC Radio Medway to produce an hour long documentary called 'Sweeping Changes, The Windmills of Kent'.

His other books included 'In Kentish Pilgrimland', 'The Lure of the Countryside', 'Life in Rural England' and 'The Medway River and Valley'.

Charles Skilton He sadly died in 1990, having served on the Wind & Watermill Section Committee since 1964. His main contribution to windmill literature was 'British Windmills and Watermills', published in 1947 by Collins, London. This appeared in their Britain in Pictures series. 126 titles were first published between 1941 and 1947, and most were subsequently reprinted. As a publisher he was prolific, with books of wonderful quality. These were: 'The Windmills of Surrey and Inner London' by K.G. Farries and M.T. Mason, 1966; 'The Mills of the Isle of Wight' by J. Kenneth Major, 1970; 'The Windmills of Kent' by Jenny West, 1973; 'Essex Windmills, Millers and Millwrights' in 5 volumes, by K.G. Farries, 1981-8; 'East Yorkshire Windmills' by Roy Gregory, 1985; and 'Watermills of the London Countryside' in 2 volumes, by Kenneth C. Reid, 1987 and 1988.

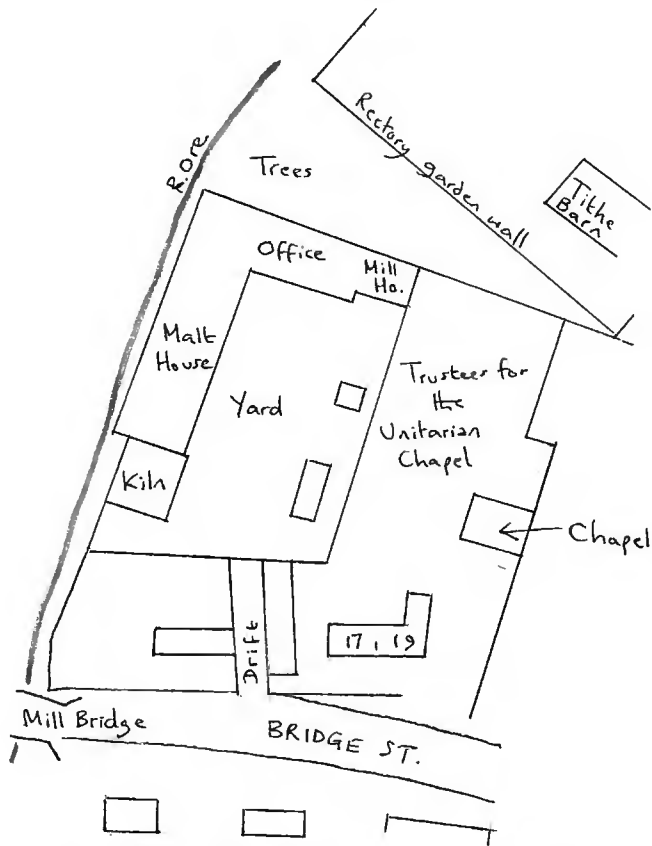
SOME FRAMLINGHAM STEAM MILLS MURIEL KILVERT

Framlingham, an ancient market town, with three market days a week in its heyday, was a natural centre in which to establish a maltings. John Welton did just this towards the end of the 17th century. He was supplied easily with barley from the surrounding arable farmlands, and had a ready market in the several inns of Framlingham, two of which he owned. One was in Church Street, an old-established concern, once called the King's Head but which changed its name to the Black Swan in the 17th century. The other was the White Horse inn standing just across Well Close Square from his Island Maltings. John Welton left his maltings to his son, Stephen, who died in 1784, leaving his Island site with its malting office, barn, etc., bought from Peter Parham in 1730 for £250, to his wife Lydia. She sold part of this property to George Brooke Keer in 1788 for £1,000.

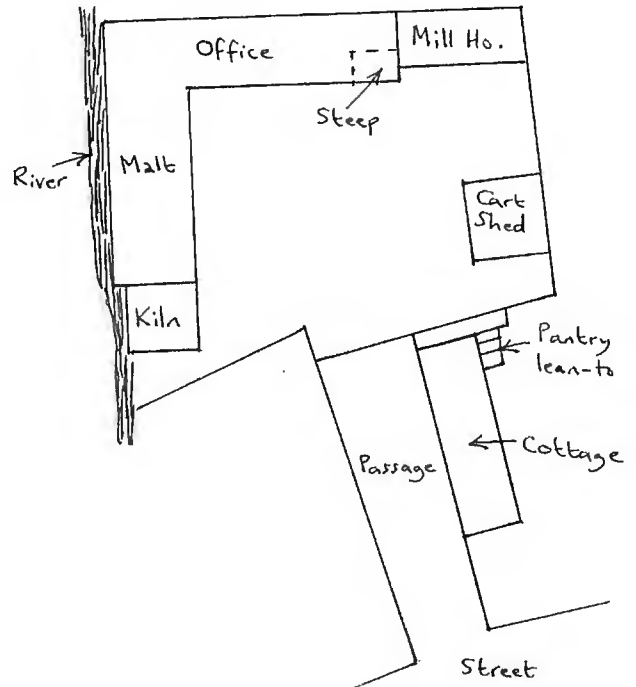
In 1853 Jasper Peirson owned this property and converted part of it to a steam rolling mill (Grid Ref. 284634) for John Kindred. This lasted until 1873 when it was further converted to The Peoples' Hall. The upper part of its chimney still projects from the roof. It is now the United Free Church Hall.

Trade revolving round the market was increasing in the later 18th and the 19th century, and the population was rising from 1,796 in 1787 to 1,854 in 1801. This trend was maintained until 1901, when the population reached 2,525 with a surge of house-building from 1811.

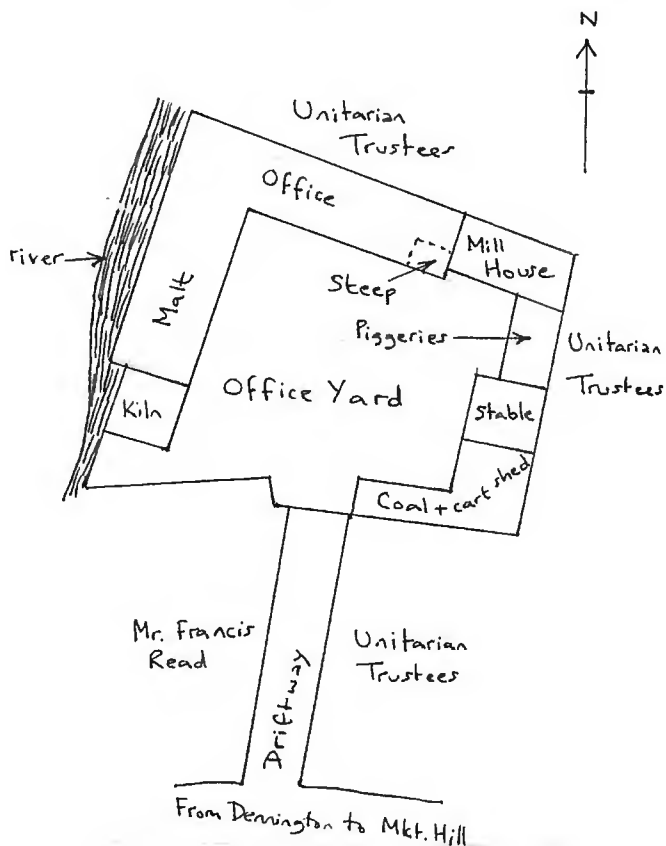
In 1801 John Hayward sold his house and barn with his 21 rods of land and the



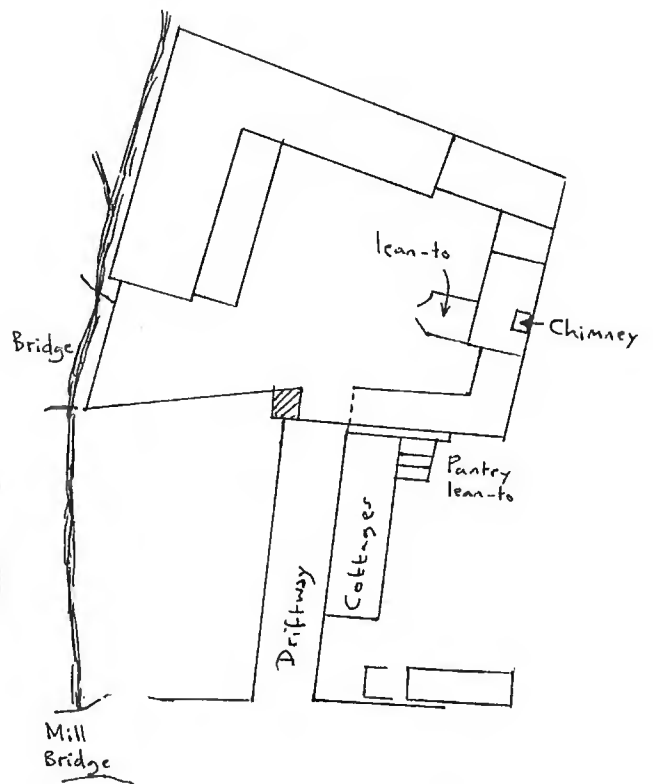
Plan 1 Maltings in Bridge Street.
Sketch plan from O. Sitwell's
papers, c.1813.



Plan 2 Maltings in Bridge St. -
Mr. C. Clubbe's premises
17th January 1822



Plan 3 Maltings & steam mill,
Bridge St. - as conveyed from
Mr. James Clutton to Mr. James
Maulden, 18th July 1879



Plan 4 Sketch plan of buildings
on Bridge St. site 1992 (pre-fire)

driftway (No.976 on the Tithe Map) and John Cattermole built 'a robust and sizeable structure occupying 12½ rods around the malting yard'. This was sold to a consortium including Jonathan Wightman, James Maulden, Simon Watson and Thomas Baldwin, who occupied this Malt Office with steep, mill house and sheds, built in English bond brick with weatherboarding above the mill office, and ran a malting business (see Plan 1 on p.4). This property was mortgaged to Charles Clubbe in 1822, but continued trading (Plan 2). In 1846 the property was conveyed for £650 to Messrs. Clutton and some extra buildings were added. Demands and farming practices were changing. Wheat was beginning to supplant barley, and because of the rising population, a greater demand for flour was apparent.

Market towns were adjusting to this growth in farming development, and building Corn Halls. In 1847 Framlingham built its Corn Hall on the south-west side of the Crown inn yard. (This building was converted to bedrooms and offices in the 1930's). Tragedy had attended the old tower and post mills of the area. The tower mill at Mount Pleasant, owned by Mr. Woods, was burnt down in 1837. The old timber-built mill in Victoria Road (Grid Ref. 284630), off Station Road, which had been sold by Andrew Bedingfield to a Framlingham baker Edmund Cocking in 1714, and subsequently run by John Kindred, collapsed in 1842 when it was being supported on screw jacks while a roundhouse was being erected below it.

In 1864, in order to meet the growing demand for flour, and to recompense for

the loss of two local mills, the consortium, including the miller, James Maulden, converted part of the Maulden maltings into a steam mill. In 1879 the whole property was conveyed to Mr. James Maulden for £600 plus £50 interest, and he became one of the largest employers in the town (Plan 3). Additional brick buildings replaced the old piggeries and stable, and the chimney projected above these buildings. Trade was further extended to include not only flour but also bran, pollards, meals, etc., and James Maulden styled himself Malster & Miller. He also dealt in coal, coke, cake as well as corn, and was established as a seed merchant by 1885. The advent of the railway to Framlingham in 1859 further stimulated his trade, and he acquired storage space by the railway station.

J. MAULDEN'S STEAM FLOUR MILLS AND MALTING.



BRIDGE STREET, FRAMLINGHAM.

JAMES MAULDEN,
MALSTER & MILLER,
 CORN, COAL, COKE, CAKE,
 —LAND—
 SEED MERCHANT,
STEAM FLOUR MILLS,
Bridge Street, FRAMLINGHAM.

Flour, Bran, Pollards, Meals,
 &c., at Lowest Market Prices.
THE TRADE SUPPLIED.

Orders Promptly Executed and Delivered
 to Surrounding Neighbourhood.
TEA, WILLS' TOBACCO, & CIGARS

Sale advert of 1888

In 1892 he invested in a Whitmore & Binyon roller mill, driven by a horizontal condensing steam engine, purchased for £250 from Wickham Market. This machine drove the whole plant with steam at a pressure of 90 lb. per square inch which turned the engine at 95 r.p.m.. The heavy driving belt round the outside of the flywheel took power from the engine to drive the flour mill machinery. The speed of the engine was automatically controlled by the patent Nordberg governor on top of the cylinder. This installation necessitated further buildings and an extension to the chimney. The advertisement of 1893 (opposite) demonstrates this development. His business was such that he dispensed with his coal and coke trade.

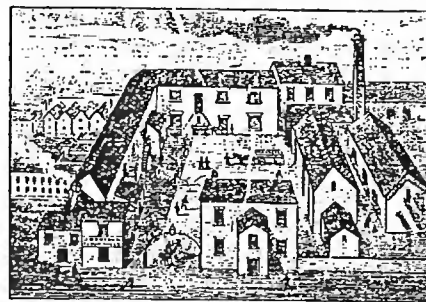
In 1902, three years before his death, James Maulden bequeathed to his two sons James John and William Edward the mills of Framlingham and Kelsale equally. William Edward Maulden became the owner of the Framlingham mill until 1949 when he died intestate. His two sons, who were millers, shared the estate. In 1955 they sold it to Mr. E.P. Clarke (son of Mr. E.G. Clarke, at one time the largest barley merchant in the country). He removed the heavy gear, including the Whitmore & Binyon plant, using the property only as a store.

This vibrant property was further reduced in stature in 1967 when it was sold to Messrs. L.N. and P.N. Walne. They took down the original kiln in 1968, and in its place made a new access to the property, over the River Ore. A ramp was built to the old malt office, floors were reinforced, and the whole was used for the storage of motor vehicles. The buildings have not been used since 1988 and have fallen into disrepair. Planning consent has been granted for conversion to six town houses, but a serious fire early in December 1992 destroyed the mill house and much of the L-shaped malting range shown on Plan 4. However the boiler house and tall chimney still stand as a memorial to the great days of this site.

VANISHED MILLS PETER DOLMAN
STRATFORD ST. MARY

For a change this month at the editor's suggestion I will describe one of the

ROLLER FLOUR MILLS.



J. Maulden's Roller Flour Mills & Malting, Bridge St., Framlingham.

JAMES MAULDEN,
 MALTSTER, MILLER,
 CORN & SEED MERCHANT,
 Bridge Street, Framlingham,

Is now prepared to supply the

BEST ROLLER FLOUR

At lowest market prices,

Having recently erected a COMPLETE ROLLER FLOUR PLANT, under the most Modern and Approved Principle, capable of producing 20 Sacks of Flour per day.

MEALS, BRAN, POLLARDS, ETC.,

Always in Stock.

Carts start for the Neighbourhood at 9 a.m. daily.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL. AN INSPECTION INVITED.

county's largest watermills. Watermills are more difficult to write about than windmills as their history tends to be more complex and to stretch back beyond the easily accessible past two centuries. Information on watermills before about 1750 is very difficult to locate unless (for example) estate papers are preserved intact. Otherwise often only scant references come to light.

Stratford mill (Grid Ref. 042341), on the River Stour between Ipswich and Colchester, lay beside the main London - Yarmouth road and within a few miles of the tidal estuary, in short, what sale notices might call 'an excellent and valuable mercantile property'.

The starting point for any watermill history in Suffolk is the Domesday Book and in 1086 we read 'Robert held Stratford before 1066 as a manor ... Always 1 mill' in lands held by Swein of Essex. Thus the mill site (assuming continuity) was occupied before the Conquest. After this I have no information until 1752 when the mill was conveyed from John Bradwell to Ebenezer Hollick, an oil miller whose family also had an oil mill at Whittlesford in Cambridgeshire. Chapman and André's map of Essex (1777) names 'An Oil & Corn Mill' and this is the mill which John Constable (the local miller's son who gave up his career for the risky life of art!) painted in 1820. His picture shows a small mill with an external wheel. We get further information about it when it was offered to let in 1822 on the retirement of Ebenezer Hollick (presumably a descendant, as John Hollick had died in 1818):

'The Oil Mill has one pair of stones, and one pair of rollers for crushing seed. Three oil presses with going gears, & c., capable of pressing three thousand quarters of seed in the year. The granaries will hold two thousand quarters of seed and corn, and the leaden cisterns will hold sixty tons of oil. The Flour Mill contains two pairs of stones for grinding, and proper machinery for dressing flour, and is capable of grinding and dressing about eight hundred quarters of wheat in the year... The buildings are all in good repair, having had about £1500 expended on them within the last four years ...'

In April 1823 an attempt was made to sell it and the purchaser may have been William Harris of Higham oil mill (on the River Brett nearby) who pulled the mill down. Perhaps he did it to stop competition! The materials were sold in October 1825 - 14,000 tiles (enough for a roof of over 200 square yards), 'excellent fir and oak girders, 50 pairs of 16 feet rafters' (i.e. a timber building, about 65ft x 20ft) and 'water and pit wheels, counterwheels, shaft' (etc.).

The new mill was built during 1826 and probably had steam power from the beginning. The mill may have been used for oil and flour at first as edge runners continued to be employed (see below) but by 1844 it was owned and operated as a flour mill by William Back. Subsequently Alfred and Octavius Back operated as Back & Co. until at least 1864. In 1861 the mill made the local papers, but not in the best of circumstances. In January one of the workmen was killed when he fell while six men were treading the wheel to free it of ice (with the water on) and in March it featured in a court case concerning Dedham mill (the next

The Mill, Stratford St. Mary.



downstream) and flooding of farmland in between. This revealed that the head was only 4ft 6ins - 4ft 9ins; notwithstanding this five pairs of stones would run by water power. The mill employed a staff of eight, including a foreman (Walter Cole) and two 'stonemen'. By 1868 the mill had entered the Stannard's milling empire (also at

Dedham, Colchester and Wiston), probably under lease. No miller is listed after 1874 and in 1882 the lease was offered on the mill 'with 12 pairs of stones, 6 by water, 6 by steam; a 24 h.p. beam engine by Hall of Dartford; iron breast shot waterwheel 14 feet wide, 9ft. diameter, and patent drying kiln. Rent £250 a year' (a sizeable sum). Perhaps someone took up the opportunity for the next advert for the lease is in October 1885 when further details of the mill are given. In addition to the 12 pairs of stones were '3 sets of Macaroni Presses, smutting and dressing machines, separator and elevator etc. ... storage room for about 4000 quarters, and stone paved wharf on one side of mill where barges can lay alongside ...'.

In May 1892 an attempt to sell it was made - perhaps successfully for in June 1906 the mill was again auctioned on behalf of the trustee of E.T. Hooley, the bankrupt owner. It was bought for £500 by Mr. W. Nocton. The sale notice gives an idea of the mill's size 'A substantial White Brick and Slated building of Five Floors, each about 86 ft x 48 ft'. The macaroni presses had been reduced to two in number and were described as 'Marble Macaroni runners and pans'. I don't know how these would have worked since macaroni is a pasta tube; perhaps the runners forced the pasta through a die? Any ideas would be welcomed.

Whether or not the mill was used during all the buying and selling is questionable as it is stated to have closed down in 1890. Certainly no traders are listed at the mill after 1874 but this is not necessarily the true picture. It is described as being 'disused' on the 1896 revision of the 6-inch O.S. map. In the late 1920's it was acquired (with its water rights) by South Essex Waterworks Company (along with Langham mill) who erected a huge pumping station just upstream. The mill remained, increasing in dereliction, until late 1947 when demolition commenced. Parts of the ground floor walling are all that remain at the site today.

TOWARDS 2084: A VISIT TO THORNTON CLEVELEYS WINDMILL

CHRIS HULLCOOP

It is nearly ten years since 1984 and George Orwell's nightmares did not become reality, at least in this country. However, on a recent visit to Thornton Cleveleys mill, on the S.P.A.B.'s Lancashire mill tour, I was not quite so sure.

This mill has been restored at great cost and now forms the centrepiece for a 'craft and quality' shopping area with a range of new buildings rather too large and in 'developer's traditional' style. Externally the mill looks well with sails containing one shutter per bay, more than enough to idle in a strong breeze. Idle they do but the power is supplied by Norweb via a concealed electric motor. Sadly the sails could not be allowed to turn for our visit as it was too windy! Now we understand - I think - but imagine what children might write after a school visit. 'We enjoyed seeing Thornton mill but for the sails to turn they need a calm day.' Just down the road on the Golden Mile one of Ken Dodd's Diddy men might have been 'The only windmiller in the world to get an electricity bill', and George Formby might have sung 'With my little electric engine in the cap'.

Inside all was ordered and clean, with some good models and an interpretation / display area. Uniformed and smiling young ladies from Wyre District Council's tourist department took six members (as decreed by the fire authority) to the upper floors, but not into the cap. Our party waited patiently in the company of a wax miller (not a speck of flour on him) whose disembodied voice spoke of 'the old days'. After waiting an hour or so I



heard our chairman negotiating for a small party of six to be allowed into the cap. Like a smoker or drinker only recently off the habit, temptation won and I was soon climbing quickly, silently and unseen into the cap. I spent a peaceful half hour marvelling at its size and construction, and successfully resisted a further temptation to climb out onto the sails and hoist a banner proclaiming 'Windpower Lives'! When the party arrived with the warden I retreated to a dark area ahead of the brakewheel. Here I thought for a while on the consequences of my hasty action - would the S.P.A.B. be banned? I remembered a T.V. adaptation of 'Brave New World' where a miscreant was sent for corrective treatment. Every few moments a voice repeated 'You are now at a deviant reception centre, there is nothing to worry about ...'. The party drew nearer as I crouched Quasimodo-like on the weather-

beam. With a wax miller below perhaps I might be mistaken for a wax millwright, especially if I could manage ventriloquy, a Lancashire accent and had a good memory! However the warden was a kindly soul not bothered by my escapade and a discussion was soon under way on the whys and wherefores of the electric drive. The warden said their aim was to keep the interior as original as possible and restoration to working order could involve replacement and therefore loss of original components not strong enough for use. This is something given no thought in many repairs. How often have we seen original components including brakewheels rotting outside when a casual glance shows their replacements do not copy the original work? However, we have to accept that in a restoration to working order some originality and therefore historic interest is lost. Much depends on the mill. A late nineteenth century Lincolnshire tower mill with all cast iron machinery is far easier to restore to efficient and safe working order than a much older mostly wooden smock or post mill.

We felt that at Thornton a winding cap and sails turned by wind power could have been achieved without loss of history if those concerned had used better judgement. It did look like the first steps along a road where multiplying regulations and taxes exterminate the working windmill. Perhaps theme parks will offer us simulators or some virtual reality windmill experience. There will be no need to risk being hit by sails or soiled by flour dust or grease, maintenance will only entail the occasional replacement of microchips.

We were grateful to Wyre District Council for preserving the mill and admired their courage in taking on the considerable running and maintenance costs. As we left, though, with the wax miller endlessly repeating his words and the static sails waiting for the wind to drop, we felt that although 1984 has long gone we must not forget old George's warning.

NEWS

PROGRESS AT THORINGTON STREET WATERMILL

Re-cogging of the spur wheel is now well under way, using donated applewood, the blanks being cut out on the bandsaw at Wicken windmill. The stone spindle of one pair of French stones has been dismantled, cleaned up and re-assembled. The bedstone needed levelling and the spindle re-plumbing due to structural movement since the stones last worked (probably in the 1914-1918 war). The dress is in good condition. Chris Armour has made a new hackle plate for the bedstone, the original having rusted away. The outside of the mill has been repainted completely, apart from one or two windows which are still to be replaced.

Work planned for this year is the completion of the cogging and repair of the stone tun and spout. Externally we will try to get the head and tail ponds dredged, especially the tailrace culvert which is causing back-watering. Some of the water-wheel buckets need replacing. With applied hard work it should be possible to get the mill working again later this year.

In the autumn a report on the mill was requested by Sir Joshua Rowley, the mill's owner, with recommendations for repairs and their priority. Of particular urgency are the replacement of the lucam supports and the re-roofing of the corrugated iron extension.

Further week-end work-ins will take place on 6th-7th February, 6th-7th March and 3rd-4th April. (P.D.)

RENEWAL OF FLOODGATES AND SLUICES AT STRATFORD ST. MARY

The original waterways and bypass gates at the mill (see feature on p.6) are being replaced this winter by contractor May Gurney, for the Essex Water Company. While this may have been necessary, the old cast iron gates were in perfect condition and have now been unceremoniously dumped on the river bank. Several castings have been broken in the process. The N.R.A. hope to salvage the gates for possible re-use elsewhere. (P.D.)

WORK AT HOLTON MILL

Millwrights E. Hole & Son have just completed repairs at Holton post mill near Halesworth, which is maintained by the County Council. The main task has been the construction of four new sails, closely modelled on the last working sails which were 2 common and 2 springs. These were removed in the 1960's in favour of flat dummy sails which were in place until 1988. Solid timber stocks have replaced box-section ones which accompanied the dummy sails. It is hoped to get the sails turning on open days (two cloths have been made) and to this end the brake has been overhauled and the brake-



wheel strengthened. Other work has included tying back the weatherbeam, reinforcing the neck of the main post with steel straps and a re-paint. Apart from the brake-wheel, no machinery survives in the mill. (M.B.)

'SEPARATION' OF LITTLE GLEMHAM MILL REFUSED

About a year ago the owner of Little Glemham watermill, Mr. B. Ringwood, commenced work on modernising the adjoining mill house, an old timber-framed structure encased in brick in the mid 19th century. Until the brick casing was added the mill had been detached from the house by about three feet. The join was made for

working convenience as part of the house was used as an office and store serving the mill. In October, an application was made to separate the house from the mill by removing the 19th century link. The owner apparently wished to do this to facilitate the eventual repair of the mill and to create a firebreak between the two buildings. The proposal was opposed by English Heritage, S.P.A.B. and S.P.S., mainly on the grounds that it would destroy part of the history of the buildings, for no convincing reason. There was more chance of the mill being preserved if it was physically linked to the house than if it was a separate structure. Suffolk Coastal District Council has now refused listed building consent. (M.B.)

MILLS ON THE MARKET

Several Suffolk mills have been offered for sale in recent months. Perhaps the most important is the watermill at Ixworth, which is complete with all its gear and a live water supply. Bidwells of Cambridge were asking a very reasonable £175000 for mill, adjoining house, outbuildings and 3 acres.

Another watermill retaining some machinery, but recently converted to a fine house, is Holbrook, just south of Ipswich. Asking price is £200000; agents are Bidwells (Martlesham Heath office).

Bosmere Mill, Needham Market is currently on offer, the guide price being £120000. It is converted to a restaurant and hotel but retains a fine external waterwheel. Sole agents are Hamilton Smith of Needham Market and Debenham.

Bures watermill (see Newsletter 48) is now being marketed for commercial use with a guide price of £385000. Agents are Nicholas Percival (0206 563222).

Burgh mill, a tall tower mill empty of machinery, comes with a fine 6-bed Georgian mill house, 3-bed cottage, outbuildings and some 3 acres - and a price tag of £350000. Agents Bidwells are believed to have agreed a sale.

EVENTS

S.M.G. PUBLIC MEETING: NATURAL POWER IN THE MODERN AGE; SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27th 1993, commencing 7.30pm. at IPSWICH TOWN HALL

For our 1993 public meeting we return to a theme which in 1987 resulted in one of our best-attended events in recent years, that of alternative or renewable energy. This is timely as last autumn the first wind farm in East Anglia was built near Hemsby just north of Gt. Yarmouth.

Our speaker is Dr. David Pearce, who as well as being a long-standing member of S.M.G. and heavily involved in the repair of traditional mills, is also a research engineer with PowerGen. His talk, a personal view, will review the latest developments in the use of wind power, hydro and other renewables. He will also touch on the complex subsidy mechanism which acts as an incentive to develop these new power sources. We are most grateful to Dave, a very busy man, for agreeing to give this talk.

Please note our return to the Town Hall in the centre of Ipswich for what should be an excellent evening.