

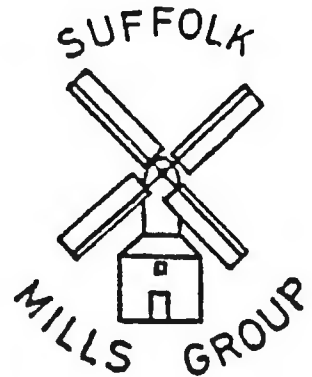
SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter

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This newsletter follows hot on the heels (or so it seems) of the January issue in order to publicise various events we have organised for the Spring and early summer. These are:

Sunday April 18th	S.M.G. visit to Bures watermill
Sunday May 9th	National Mills Day
Sunday June 20th	S.M.G. Annual General Meeting at Stanton post mill
Sunday July 11th	S.M.G. visit to Buxhall windmill

Full details of the above will be found in the 'Events' section. This year, in addition to events we organise ourselves, there are several others where S.M.G. is also involved, including another Local History Fair at Stowmarket. As well as mentioning these, I will endeavour to also include open days and visits arranged by the mills groups in Essex and Norfolk when space permits.

Having organised a public meeting in late February for the last 15 years, it was perhaps inevitable that sooner or later we would encounter bad weather. This year our run of good luck ended, for the week-end co-incided with the only few days of snow of the entire winter! Despite this we still attracted an audience of around 50 and following Dave Pearce's excellent presentation a lively question and answer session ensued.

My reservoir of material for the newsletter is once again very low. All contributions, especially those relating to Suffolk and adjoining counties, will be gratefully received.

Mark Barnard

A MISCELLANY OF MILLS GUY BLYTHMAN

This is an account of a few particularly memorable windmills I have visited within the last few years. Sadly most of them are derelict, but I thought they might be of greater interest than preserved mills which tend to be better known. Besides which they might not be with us for much longer; perhaps those who read this article may be led to seek them out before it is too late, or even to buy and restore one if they have the money.

IDMISTON (also known as GOMELDON), Wiltshire (NGR 177,359)

A small, rendered brick and flint tower mill, the machinery of which is said to have come from a mill at Middle Wallop, Hampshire, in 1840. Whether the tower was then newly built, or an existing tower was being re-fitted, is not known. Although no photograph of the mill in working order has come to light, it appears

like the preserved mill at Wilton near Great Bedwyn to have followed the advanced pattern of windmill technology found in the South East. It ceased work around 1885. In 1974 the cap roof, sails and fantail had gone, and the interior was almost a shell, but the iron windshaft and brakewheel spokes, along with the fantail gearing and supporting structure, remained. By 1984 the fantail gearing had been removed to the museum at Wimbledon Common mill. On my visit to Gomeldon in August 1991 it appeared that the windshaft and fantail supports had also been removed, although the former may have fallen inside the tower. Does anyone know what has become of these items?

CHALTON, Hampshire (NGR 716,162)

A small tower mill, situated on a hill overlooking the A3 just north of Portsmouth and a well-known landmark. It is believed to date from 1785 and to have last worked in 1900. By the 1970's the cap roof had gone although the windshaft, half of one stock, part of the brakewheel, and the fantail gearing and supporting timbers remained. Apart from the upright shaft the interior was an empty shell. At this time there was talk of the mill being restored; unfortunately it was house-converted instead, most of the surviving items of machinery going to local museums. A new cap of a similar shape to the original has been fitted, along with four short dummy sails, but the fantail was not replaced. The windshaft has presumably been retained. The original cap was a metalled dome and the sails were patents.

Many years ago the mill featured in an early science fiction film in which it is destroyed by giant lizards which emerge from beneath the ground and cause havoc on the surface.

NORTH LEIGH, Oxfordshire (NGR 387,128)

A small, three-storey tower mill, built of stone with a steep batter. It is not known when it was erected, or when it ceased work. The 1902 O.S. map marks it as disused. It had common sails and the ogee cap was winded by hand. It was restored in 1932 under the aegis of the S.P.A.B., but was soon derelict again. By the mid 1980's the cap roof had gone and the wooden clasp-arm brake-wheel had disintegrated, while of the sails only one stock remained in place. After much pressure from the local authorities, and with ill grace, the owners allowed a new cap to be fitted, which should protect the interior from further deterioration. Due to the hostile and obstructive attitude of the owners towards the whole question of repair, there is little chance of any more work being carried out in the foreseeable future.

In 1940 Mr. Ronald Hawksley visited the mill and noted down some details of the interior. There were originally two pairs of underdriven stones, one of which had been removed. The windshaft, upright shaft, great spurwheel and stone nuts were of iron (although Rex Wailes in 1956 stated that the upright shaft

was a two-piece wooden affair, of elm above and oak below). The sack hoist was driven from the wooden crown wheel, while a separate iron wheel powered a flour dresser on the ground floor. Mr. Hawksley states that this dresser was of an unusual type, but does not elaborate.¹ As far as is known, all this machinery is still intact.

The mill had a particularly fine winding worm; strangely, and regrettably, this was not covered as part of the repairs, and it lies rotting away on the ground near the mill.

UPPER DEAN, Bedfordshire (NGR 041,682)

A very small, slender tower mill with three storeys, in a remote rural location close to the county's border with Cambridgeshire. It was built in 1856-7 and ceased work in 1906. Today the cap roof and all traces of the fantail have gone, and the wooden clasp-arm brakewheel is coming away from the windshaft which still carries one stock with fragments of two sails. A fair amount of machinery is still in place within the tower, including one pair of stones and a flour dresser. The brickwork of the tower appears to be in good condition, although I have not examined it closely, and the mill's small size would make it a good candidate for restoration. However, North Bedfordshire District Council seem to regard it as disqualified due to its isolated position, which would admittedly be a problem. It is to be hoped that they will at least ensure that first-aid repairs are carried out before the mill deteriorates too far. I understand that attempts have been made to persuade the owners to sell the mill off, or to allow salvage of the remaining machinery, but without any success.

BUERTON, Cheshire (NGR 685,440)

One of two derelict windmills remaining in the county of Cheshire with restoration potential, the other being Threapwood (see below). A large red brick tower mill, said to date from c.1860. It had a very short working life, stopping in about 1880. The cap, sails, windshaft and brakewheel are missing but the cap frame and some of the machinery remain. The ground floor is used as a farm store. In 1984 a booklet, 'The Old Mills of Audlem', which gives an account of the mill was on sale at the village post office.

The mill is listed, but there seems no hope of repair at present. In its working days it had common sails, a stage and a boat-shaped cap typical of the region, which was winded by hand.

THREAPWOOD (Bevan's Mill), Cheshire (NGR 443,452)

A tower mill, broad and stumpy in appearance with no batter for the top few feet. It is not known when it was built, but it last seems to have worked in the early 1900's. It is now in a very poor state of repair, but in 1986 City of Chester's Director of Technical Services stated that he believed restoration to be possible.² The cap roof and sails have gone and the windshaft and brakewheel have fallen

to the bottom of the mill, the latter breaking in half. The floors and machinery have collapsed in a heap on the ground floor. From this pile of debris a number of items can be picked out, including the square wooden upright shaft and iron wallower. The windshaft is of wood with an iron poll-end, the brakewheel a wooden clasp-arm. The tower is covered with ivy on its northern side, and the brickwork is badly eroded and has several large cracks. The mill had common sails and the cap was wound by hand. Half of the winding wheel, which an old photograph of the mill shows was a particularly fine, and unusually large, specimen remains in place.

ELWICK, Cleveland (NGR 449,316)

A red brick tower mill, whose distinctive outline, tall and very slender, gives it the appearance of a chimney stack when seen from a distance. Its date of erection is unknown but it is thought to be rather younger than, say, that at nearby Hart which is of late 18th or early 19th century origin.

The mill is last known to have worked in 1902. Today the cap roof and fantail have gone but the windshaft, brakewheel and part of one sail are present. The interior is inaccessible due to collapse of the lower floors. Preservation is obviously desirable as it is one of only two windmills in Cleveland to retain its internal machinery, the other being Hart which is currently under restoration. The mill has several times been the subject of applications by the owners to house-convert it. Until recently these had been successfully resisted by the local authorities, with support from S.P.A.B. and local amenity societies. However, a conversion scheme has now been approved, on condition that the internal machinery is retained.

The trestle and post of a post mill (or 'stob' mill as they were known in the North East) were standing at Elwick in 1938 and were painted by Karl Wood.

WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE (Hawkstone Mill), Shropshire (NGR 449,316)

One of only two 'industrial' windmills in the U.K. to retain any machinery, the other being the whiting mill at Hessle, North Humberside. Thought to date from the late 18th century, it is a large solid-looking brick tower mill which was used to extract linseed oil to make cake for feeding cattle and to crush bones for manure.

The date of its ceasing work is not known and there is no photograph to show what it looked like in working order. The cap, which was wound by hand, and sails have gone but the windshaft, wooden clasp-arm brakewheel and winding wheel remain. There was formerly a stage. Inside, much of the flooring has disappeared but enough remains to support the upright shaft which terminates in a spurwheel of smaller diameter than usual. From this were driven a pair of edge runner stones, one of which is still in the mill while the other lies outside on the ground, broken in half.

At one time the mill was in danger of house conversion, but the latest news is that the new owners of the property are considering repairs and have been in touch with the local authorities, who are endeavouring to ensure that the work is carried out in a sensitive manner.

Notes

- 1 H.E.S. Simmons Collection, Science Museum library
- 2 Letter to the author from the Director of Technical Services

A NEW WINDMILL SITE AT LONG MELFORD PETER DOLMAN



Two S.M.G. members, Len Ball and Richard Slaughter, have sent me newspaper cuttings about a recently-rediscovered picture of Melford Green dated 1793 which shows a post windmill near the church (see above). Coincidentally I had been in correspondence with Arthur Teece, of Long Melford Historical and Archaeological Society about the picture a few months ago. Prior to this, only one windmill site was known, at Windmill Hill (Grid Ref. 857465) on the south side of the Cavendish Road, almost opposite the Stanstead Road. This is shown on Hodskinson's 1783 map, also the 1805 Ordnance Survey and most 19th century maps, being last indicated on the c.1882 six-inch O.S. map. It was a post mill with roundhouse (although indicated as open trestle on the six-inch O.S.; perhaps it was in dereliction?) which was reputedly taken down in 1887 and its materials burned as part of a bonfire to celebrate Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

The picture (only part of which is reproduced) is a pen and ink drawing with some watercolouring. The roof and two sails are visible of the mill, on the north side of Westgate Street (Clare Road). What would seem to be its site is indicated on a manuscript estate map of lands belonging to Westgate House, of c.1775. This has had the windmill crudely added, at a later date (it is not shown on Hodskinson's map of 1778-83), at Grid Ref. 864466, which is in the corner of Westgate Street and Church Walk. Perhaps significantly, it is adjacent to 'Workhouse Yard'. In the late 18th century several workhouses constructed their own mills. Perhaps this was one such? The 1793 picture doesn't show the other windmill, it being some half-mile distant and presumably out of sight.

The interesting question is, was the 'workhouse' mill a new mill, or the

other one moved to a new site, and then returned to its original site? The Ipswich Journal of April 10th, 1784 advertised 'A Post Windmill ... to be removed or to stand where it does, in good repair, with one pair of French Stones, Flour Mill etc.'. Robert Hurwood, the Ballingdon millwright was the vendor (or agent).

In January 1794 Robert Stammers of Long Melford insured his windmill for £100. Which one was it? Who knows! Perhaps it had been moved back by this time. At any rate, by 1805 only one mill site was in use.

LETTER

Michael Roots of 14a, Cricket Ground Road, Norwich NR1 3BQ writes:

Whilst researching in the Norfolk County Record Office, I found the following letter relating to Robert Martin, the Beccles millwright, who was having financial difficulties in 1860. The letter was from his solicitor, Mr. Kent, of Beccles, to Messrs. Holmes & Sons, who were iron founders, millwrights, etc. in Norwich. The NCRO reference is BR 206/2, the letter being one of several relating to Holmes & Sons, and one of few really legible ones.

'Gentlemen,

I regret having to inform you that in consequence of heavy losses which Mr. Robert Martin of this town has suffered within the last two years he is unable to meet his engagements & has placed his affairs in my hands.

In the last year the amount of Bad Debts was nearly £300. His liabilities exceed £550. partly the accumulation of several years, his receipts having been too small to allow of any considerable reduction from year to year. The trade expenses have been kept as low as possible, but an increased outlay has been required for labor, while in important instances to my knowledge, this has not been paid for, the parties becoming insolvent for whom the work was done. - Mr. Martin is anxious to make such an arrangement with his Creditors as may relieve him from his present embarrassments that prevent his retaining business with them. If this should be impossible, I fear, as proceedings threaten, he will be ruined, & the interests of Creditors sacrificed.

The Millwright's Fixtures and Fittings and Tools are valued at

	£150.
Fixtures and Materials in Foundry	80.
Horse & Sundries	20.

The Good and Doubtful debts amount to £160 but are not expected to realise one half. If taken at £80 it would give only £330 & it is not probable that that sum would be produced by any forced sale.

Under these circumstances it is thought better to offer 10/- in the £ in discharge, & if now acceded to, the money may be raised for paying the amount before the 10th of March.

I shall be glad to receive your answer with Statement of Claim by an early post, as time presses.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedt. Servt.

W. Kent,
Solr.

The signature is difficult to decipher, but there was a firm of solicitors by the name of Kent in Beccles in the 1860's.

VANISHED MILLS

PETER DOLMAN

WETHERINGSETT: ALDRED'S MILL, BROAD GREEN

One of two mills in the parish (at Grid Ref. 145648), this mill originally stood isolated in the middle of the Green. In the mid 1930's it was said that the deeds went back 150 years, although the mill is described as 'new-erected' in a sale notice of 1812. It was a typical east



Suffolk post mill with a smallish buck, four double-shuttered patent sails, an eight-bladed fly and single-storey roundhouse. There were two pairs of stones in the head plus the usual flour machine (a bolter) and sack hoist. It was acquired by Frederick Aldred by 1869 and blown down on 'Black Tuesday', 18th January 1881. The post had broken at the neck, dropping the mill sideways and making a terrible mess of everything. Remarkably photographs have survived of the wreckage, and of the mill before it collapsed.

Mr. Aldred decided to have the mill rebuilt on a grander scale and appointed Whitmore & Binyon of Wickham Market to the job. They rebuilt it in 1883, finishing it in September. Although Whitmore & Binyon employed their own staff on it to some extent, by this date they were more interested in steam mills and roller milling machinery so they sub-contracted much of the 'old-fashioned' millwrighting to Sam Clarke, at that time based at Framsdon. He made the post and Stanley Freese wrote about this task in his book 'Windmills and Millwrighting'. Mr. Aldred kept the account for the rebuilding, and it is clear that as much of the old mill was re-used as possible, including one stock, the stones, spur-wheel and fly tackle. Mr. Aldred arranged some of the work himself, such as the clearing of the wreckage and building of the roundhouse. Whitmore & Binyon's work cost £398-15s-0d and the total came to between £600-£700. Another remarkable record has survived, the original working drawing for the rebuild, which was saved by Holmans, the Kent millwrights, in 1901 when Whitmore & Binyon had their disposal sale. It has been preserved and is shortly to go into the Science Museum library, along with other Whitmore & Binyon drawings.

Whitmores had lost their touch (if indeed they ever had it with post mills) and Mr. Aldred was rather dissatisfied with his new mill, having to move the stones and brakewheel back to counter head-sickness, also fitting additional bracing. It was used until 1937 when Edward Aldred (son of Frederick) died.

Thereafter the auxiliary stones in the roundhouse were used, for farm use only, driven by tractor. The shutters and fly were removed and it was left to decay. In 1957 it was pulled down, the crowntree finding its way to Saxtead mill which was being rebuilt at that time. The roundhouse remained, presumably still of use for farm grinding. It is now derelict, and has permission for house-conversion.

The new mill was a typical tall Suffolk post mill with a two-storey roundhouse and narrow, smallish buck. From the original drawing the main dimensions were as follows: floor plan 11ft x 16ft 6ins; height to spout floor 24ft; height to ridge 48ft; diameter of roundhouse 23ft 6ins.

The sails were originally 8-bay patents, as the old mill, but Mr. Aldred altered them by cutting pieces off in the mistaken belief that they would go better. It finished up with single-shuttered, 7-bay sails! The windshaft was re-used and was iron, with a bolted-on tail. The new brakewheel was iron, 8-spoked with 88 beech cogs and was 7ft diameter. The old iron brake was re-used. It had been intended to re-use the wallower but in the event a new one of 25 cogs was provided. The old iron spur wheel was re-used on a new upright shaft and drove through new iron mortise nuts, one with 20 and one with 24 hornbeam cogs. The stones were underdrift and the nuts were lifted up out of mesh by forked rack and pinion jacks, a typical Whitmore practice. Each pair had its own governor, one repaired and one new. Tentering was by iron bridgetrees working a thrust pin through the wooden bridge tree which spanned the mill. Hand adjustment was via the normal Whitmore & Binyon 'socket spanners'. Power for the sack hoist came from a large pulley clamped with U-bolts to the front of the brakewheel. The dresser was driven by a layshaft across the mill, driven off the brakewheel by a skew pinion, and then by belt to a pair of pulleys on the stone floor and finally along the side to the machine in the tail of the mill.

Apart from the iron machinery, the mill was similar to others in the area and was unexceptional other than its claim to be the last post mill to be built in Suffolk (so far!). The main ladder was another design fault, although probably not one of Whitmore's making. Because the mill was rebuilt about 10 feet taller, yet the old fly tackle was used, the ladder was incredibly steep and must have been very dangerous to use!

One final point. If the picture on the previous page seems familiar, then look at the front of the newsletter! This last Suffolk post mill forms the basis for the S.M.G. logo.

SOME MORE ON FRAMLINGHAM MILLS PETER DOLMAN

Following the appearance in the last newsletter of Muriel Kilvert's article, I have comments and corrections to make as follows.

The 'Peoples' Hall Mill'

This was built by John, not Jasper, Pierson in 1853 and was not a roller mill.

It was advertised for letting in 1857 following Fredk. Kindred's bankruptcy and had three pairs of stones and a flour dresser, driven by a 14 h.p. engine. William & John Rose are listed as millers in 1858, and Charles Hall in 1864. It may well have ceased operation soon after for it was bought in 1868 by the Wesleyan Methodists who converted it into their meeting hall, subsequently in 1885 to become the 'Free Methodist Church'. I gave a talk in it a couple of years ago and can honestly say I would never have believed it had once been a steam mill, were it not for the ample documentary evidence to the contrary.

Maulden's Mill

I have no evidence of a steam mill at this site until 1879, the year James Maulden acquired it. It could well have been in existence in 1864 but without Miss Kilvert's source being quoted I can't check. Incidentally, the term 'mill house' in connection with a maltings refers to the malt mill, not a flour mill, and this may have caused some confusion, especially as the later flour mill occupied the same site! According to the 'Miller's Gazette', August 30th 1893, Whitmore & Binyon installed their $1\frac{1}{2}$ -sack roller plant in June 1891, not 1892.

I visited the site in 1991 and several small items such as elevators and line-shafts remained, with several millstones. The mill was very small in size. A subsequent visit, since the fire, reveals the mill to have completely vanished!

Mountpleasant Mills

I can find no evidence to support the assertion that a tower mill was burnt down in 1837, other than the story being printed in John Bridge's recent booklet 'Portrait of a Suffolk Town', again without sources being given. Certainly two windmills stood there, and Green's 'History of Framlingham' (1834) has an engraving showing them, unfortunately one being partly hidden behind a tree.

A great deal of nonsense has been put into print about the windmills of Framlingham over the years and the truth is difficult to tease out. There were two mills in 1824 through to 1837 (O.S. map), but in 1837 on the owner Phillip Aldrich's bankruptcy only one mill, an 'Old-established' post mill with large roundhouse and three pairs of stones (i.e. that which stood until 1921), is mentioned. Perhaps the story of the fire is true? At any rate the owner was not Woods until after 1837. The Tithe map of 1842 only shows one mill, yet in 1852 we find 'a nearly new post windmill' to be removed (it went to Tannington). Where did this come from? It must have been a removal from elsewhere at this relatively late date, perhaps to replace the burnt mill? Some published sources suggest that the Mountpleasant mill was moved from Apsey Green and although a field name 'Mill Hill' does indeed exist there I can find no evidence for such a move, certainly at the dates quoted (1810-20).

Victoria Mill

The post mill, blown over in 1842, was replaced with a new tower mill in the

same year, built by John Whitmore for Mr. Kindred. It was the tower, not the post mill, which was called Victoria Mill, after the recently crowned Queen.

Other Framlingham Mills

There was an early smock mill, for sale in 1770, with two pairs of stones, which had been built in 1767 and was 'to be removed'. Its base still survives, built into a house.

A post mill stood along the Rendham Road until about 1884.

A small smock mill was moved to Saxtead Lodge Farm, just inside the parish boundary, in about 1888, from Lower Hacheston. It was used for farm grinding only and was pulled down c.1922.

In earlier times there were watermills in the town, one of them at about the site later occupied by Maulden's maltings and steam mill.

NEWS

LITTLE GLEMHAM MILL BACK ON MARKET

Following refusal of permission for alterations (see last newsletter), the owner of Little Glemham watermill has decided to sell. Both mill and house are in need of substantial repair. The timber-framed mill, believed to be structurally sound, retains its machinery and wooden waterwheel, with intact water supply. The house, also timber-framed but with a 19th century brick casing, has been stripped out prior to renovation and has a temporary roof. Several acres of land are included. Agents Gobbitt & Kirby (0394 380330) are asking £73,000, less than half the price in 1990. Unfortunately their particulars incorrectly state that the mill is not listed. They have been informed that the mill is listed. S.M.G. will attempt to monitor the situation carefully, but at the time of writing we are somewhat pessimistic about the future of this potentially fine mill. (M.B.)

PROGRESS AT THORINGTON STREET WATERMILL

The great spur wheel is now repaired and running again. The middle pair of French stones have been levelled and the spindle adjusted; also the upstream pair (French bedstone and Peak runner). The dress on both pairs is in good condition and both can now turn although the Peak runner needs a little balancing. A new flour spout has been made for the French stones and the tun is under repair.

In March a party of children from East Bergholt High School spent a day dredging the tail culvert and some of the tailrace. More work will be needed next winter, and a power dredger will be required for the millpond.

This year will see completion of the stone tun repairs, so that the mill can grind again, and repairs to the windows and roof of the tin shed extension. Further work will be on Sun. May 2nd; Sat.-Sun. June 5th-6th; Sat.-Sun. August 7th-8th., and maybe also at other times. Contact Peter Dolman (0473 742388).

CREETING POST MILL BUCK ON THE MOVE?

A listed building application has recently been made to move the post mill buck

at Alder Carr Farm, Creeting St. Mary to a new site some 50 m. away. The buck was moved bodily to its present location c.1860 and turned into a dovecote. It is now derelict and has no future where it stands. The proposal is to move it whole, so that it is close to the other farm buildings. Once on its new site it will be repaired and given a new roof.

S.M.G. has produced a report to accompany the application, outlining the importance of the buck and showing that a further move is feasible provided the structure is first reinforced. (M.B.)

WINDMILLS IN ART EXHIBITION COMES TO SUFFOLK

A major exhibition on the windmill in British art is to be on display at Gainsborough's House, Sudbury, from 10th July - 5th September. Entitled 'The Romantic Windmill', it brings together works from the period 1750-1850, the greatest era of British landscape painting. Artists whose work will be on display include Constable, Turner and Crome. The exhibition has been assembled by Hove Museum and Art Gallery, and is on show there until 25th April, and then at the Usher Gallery, Lincoln from 1st May - 20th June. An illustrated catalogue is available. For more information telephone 0273 779410.

TIDE MILL BICENTENARY

1993 is the 200th birthday of the present Woodbridge tide mill. To mark the occasion a ceremony at the mill is being organised by the Tide Mill Friends, on Friday May 7th, to be attended by the mayor of Woodbridge and other invited guests. The Woodbridge Town Band will be playing and the mill may be grinding; if not the wheel will certainly turn.

The mill is open during 1993 at Easter, then daily from May 1st-September 30th, and at weekends in October; 11am-5pm in all cases. (M.B.)

INFORMATION ON WHITMORE & BINYON WANTED

Peter Dolman is working on a book about Whitmore & Binyon in conjunction with members of Wickham Market Local History Society. He would like to hear of examples of the firm's work which members may know of, either remaining or now lost. The company was very active in the last 30 years or so of the last century and worked in most areas of England and into South Wales. Little of their machinery seems to have survived, and only one remaining steam engine is known (that now at Stowmarket). Any help will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

1993 WORK AT DRINKSTONE

Little was done at Drinkstone last year as I was busy constructing the curb for Wicken mill. This year we will aim to finish repairing the smock mill roof, fitted in 1978 as an emergency measure, adding a petticoat at the same time. The roof is leaking at present but water is held on the dust floor by old carpets on corrugated steel sheets. We will also repair the roof of the post mill roundhouse. If any member has spare plain tiles for this task we'd be pleased to hear from them. (C.H.)

EVENTS

S.M.G. VISIT TO BURES MILL: SUNDAY APRIL 18th 1993 at 2.30 pm.

The feed milling business at Bures closed three years ago and this visit, a joint one with Essex Mills Group, provides an opportunity to see the complex before it is sold and almost certainly converted to a new use. Nearly all the surviving machinery is relatively modern, but one roller mill is left and the site of the waterwheel, removed in 1932, is clear. Mr. Witgar Hitchcock, whose family have owned the mill since 1875, will show us round. The mill is at Grid Ref. 912336, some $\frac{1}{2}$ mile SE of Bures village, approached by a lane off the minor road from Bures to Nayland.

If time permits we also aim to visit nearby Smallbridge Hall Farm, where a building in the mid 19th century model farm complex contained a hurst frame and other machinery driven by a waterwheel.

HERRINGFLEET MARSH MILL OPEN DAY: NATIONAL MILLS DAY, SUNDAY MAY 9th 1993

As is now the custom, S.M.G.'s main contribution to N.M.D. will be the opening and demonstration of Herringfleet marsh mill near Lowestoft. Members are of course most welcome to attend - provided they bring some wind!

TRADITIONAL BUILDING CRAFTS DEMONSTRATION DAY: SUNDAY MAY 23rd 1993, MUSEUM OF EAST ANGLIAN LIFE, STOWMARKET

This event, organised by the County Council as part of National Environment Week, will show a range of building crafts such as pargetting and thatching, of interest to all people who own historic buildings. Local societies connected with the built environment will also be represented, and S.M.G. has agreed to take part.

S.M.G. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: SUNDAY JUNE 20th 1993 at STANTON POST MILL, commencing 11 am.

Please note this date in your diary now! A formal notice and agenda will be circulated early in June.

S.M.G. VISIT TO BUXHALL TOWER MILL: SUNDAY JULY 11th 1993 at 2.30 pm.

This large tower mill contains some engine-driven machinery installed in the 1940's and the original cap frame is still in place. Disused since the early 1970's, it is being conserved by owner Anders Mosesson who lives adjacent.

1993 SUFFOLK HISTORY FAIR: SATURDAY 24th & SUNDAY 25th JULY at MUSEUM OF EAST ANGLIAN LIFE, STOWMARKET

This is a repeat of the successful History Fair held at the museum in 1991, when S.M.G. had a stand in the Boby building. On this occasion we attracted a good deal of interest and gained several new members. We will of course be present at the 1993 Fair, and would be pleased to hear from any member willing to help.

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STOP PRESS Great Bardfield watermill, Essex, destroyed by fire 3.4.93. One of most important mills in S.E. England, with intact turbine-driven roller mill by Whitmore & Binyon as well as wheel-driven stone mill. It was about to be leased to Essex County Council for preservation.