

SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter

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

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



Since the last newsletter the usual round of events which take place in the first half of the year have passed off successfully. At our February public meeting, which was well attended, Bob Malster gave an entertaining account of the history of drainage on the Broads, while those who came on the visit to Layham watermill in April were rewarded by seeing the mill at work. Also encouraging was some lively debate and several new faces at our recent A.G.M. at Pakenham windmill.

Among our forthcoming events will be an opportunity to look round a large roller mill and a small country animal feed mill. We should also remember that in early September Suffolk will welcome the Wind and Watermill Section of the S.P.A.B., whose weekend tour is being organised by Peter Dolman. Make a note of the dates in your diary now:

Felixstowe Dock roller mill visit	Thursday August 11th
S.P.A.B. W & W Section weekend tour	September 1st-4th
Barningham feed mill visit	Sunday September 25th
Herringfleet marsh mill open day	Sunday October 2nd

Our practical involvement with repairs to Suffolk's mills should also not be forgotten. While the days of intensive 'work-ins' at Thelnetham in the 1980's, which involved dozens of volunteers, may be difficult to repeat, smaller-scale but equally important work is continuing at Drinkstone mills and at Thorington Street watermill. The paucity of young volunteers compared to ten years ago has greatly limited the work we can undertake, so please do try to support our remaining projects. We are of course always prepared to offer advice to mill owners on maintenance and repair, as in the case of Buxhall mill reported in this newsletter.

Now that the newsletter is single-spaced there is more room for material, including photographs (which as you've noticed now reproduce very well). My reservoir of material for future issues is now getting very low and I would very much welcome items from members, ideally relating to Suffolk or East Anglian mills but really anything you feel would be worth sharing. Please do try to help.

Mark Barnard

AMERICAN NOTES Brian Flint

On two recent visits to the United States I chanced upon a few mills while others I sought out deliberately.

While in San Francisco in 1991 I glimpsed, from a tour coach, one of the two very large smock mills in Golden Gate Park, built early this century to pump water to the park. This one was

equipped with fantail and common sail frames and had been restored as photographs exist showing both mills in derelict condition without sails. Further south along the coast is the small Danish community of Solvang. Here rather a 'Disneyish' replica smock mill and another similar but derelict example stand in the picturesque little town.

But to more serious stuff. Here, in East Anglia, much controversy surrounds the proposals to build 'farms' of wind generators on the often windy Suffolk and Norfolk coasts. I think there is little doubt they would intrude visually in our relatively small-scale landscape and be a noise nuisance to any nearby residents. Travelling from Los Angeles towards Palm Springs we were to see hundreds of wind generators aligned in row after row but, being in a spacious and rather barren area, they simply seemed to add a focus of interest in an otherwise almost empty landscape.

Last year we visited friends on the Eastern seaboard in Massachusetts. Here familiar place names prevail and a trip to the Cape Cod peninsula was rewarded by the sight of several of the small shingled smock mills which are typical of this area. The first mill seen at Eastham has a conical shingled cap, simple sail frames and wooden windshaft and tailpole. It is said to be the oldest in the area, having been built at Plymouth in 1680, moved to Truro in 1770, to elsewhere in Eastham in 1793 and to the present site in 1808. Nearby Orleans mill is similar but only the short sail stocks remained, mortised through the wooden windshaft.

At Chatham the windmill of 1797 was restored in 1956 but again had stocks only, although nearby lay new sails and the old tailpole. This mill had a boat-shaped cap. We espied a second, very small mill some distance from the road in Chatham but whether this was a real mill or a large garden model was difficult to say. We were unable to gain entry to any of these mills at short notice.

In Massachusetts we also saw some waterwheels. On the Sangus River, not far from Ipswich, 17th-18th century ironworks had been set up by English ironmasters. Very little was left above ground when an ambitious reconstruction was made in the 1950's. Four all-wooden waterwheels are now in evidence driving furnace bellows, forging hammers and a slitting mill.

At Sudbury stands the Wayside Inn, immortalised in a lengthy poem by Longfellow. Nearby stands a stone-built watermill with overshot iron wheel powered by the Little Hop Brook and on a traditional site, but dating only from 1929 when its building was financed by Henry Ford of automobile fame. Elevators are used to lift wheat to the uppermost floor for feeding to the stones on the grinding floor below, after which the flour is elevated again to the third floor for sifting. I spoke with the miller, a young fellow of Polish extraction who told me he had learnt his trade from the late Charlie Howell. I noticed a 4-foot French runner stone, a good 18 inches thick and made of only four burrs.

From my experience North America is not great mill hunting territory but still has a few surprises for the initiated visitor.

VANISHED MILLS Peter Dolman

HARTEST

In the 19th century there were two mills at Hartest; one on top of Hartest Hill (TL837520) was apparently built in 1834 by Ling Robinson, the Ballingdon millwright. A post mill with fantail, roundhouse and two pairs of stones, it was presumably moved here from elsewhere at this late date. It also had a bakehouse and does not seem to have lasted long, John Case being the last recorded miller (in White's 1944 directory).

The other mill stood on what may have been one of the oldest mill sites in the county. In 1251 permission to erect a windmill was granted by the Bishop of Ely to the lord of the manor and by 1256 it was in existence. The mill gave its name to the open field to the south-west of the village. In more recent times

Hodskinson's map of 1782 is the first to record the mill at its known site (TL825520) and it was advertised in the *Ipswich Journal* of May 11th 1793 as 'an exceedingly good Post Windmill', occupied by James King. It was again advertised in May 1809 when it was stated 'no other mill being in the vicinity' (which is stretching credulity, there being several within three miles). The purchaser was presumably 'Mr. Frost', who decided to raise the mill, for



the *Ipswich Journal* of August 18th 1810 recorded the unfortunate collapse of the mill on Friday 10th August while millwrights were working on it. One man was inside the mill and escaped unscathed; another underneath was only bruised but an onlooker was injured, breaking his thigh and leg. The mill was rebuilt and the *Bury & Norwich Post* for 18th March 1818 advertised it as being a 'New-erected' mill, in the occupation of Mr. Frost, the proprietor.

By 1839 it was owned and occupied by William Bray. It carried the date 1844 and this is perhaps when the brick roundhouse was built. At some point new steps and fantail were added and it is highly likely that these were from another mill, although as the tramway was of concrete this could have been much later.

William Bray rebuilt the mill house, dated 'WB 1858' and also erected a chimney, dated 'WB 1854', which may have served a bakehouse originally as the steam mill carries the datestone 'SGT 1866'. Bray is last recorded in 1858; in 1864 Richard Barrell is listed as miller, and in 1868 J.G. Taylor, who as noted above built the steam mill in 1866. By 1874 William Bateman Harvey was in possession and he continued until at least 1885 (having gone bankrupt in late 1881 on the way). A curious anomaly concerns him for *The Miller* of January 6th 1890 records that a post mill 'in the neighbourhood of Bury St. Edmunds' in his occupation was burned down on Sunday December 15th 1889. As it was clearly not Hartest mill he obviously had taken another mill nearer to Bury; at present it is not clear which one. The mill was bought by George King who is listed from 1888 to 1900. In 1904-12 Mrs. Kate King (his widow) is listed and later directories do not list a miller. Around this time the property was sold to the lord of the manor, Mr. J.G. Weller-Poley (a descendent of the lord of the manor that first built the mill in the 1250's) although King's son continued to work the mill farm and the last miller was George Johnson, in about 1926. The steam mill carried on until at least the late 1930's. After 1926 the windmill was not maintained, quickly losing its fantail, and had its millstones removed for use elsewhere. It stood in reasonably complete state until about 1960 when it was burnt down, reputedly to prevent any attempt at preservation. In 1977 little remained but the broken down walls and piers of the roundhouse, with the concrete tramway.

Hartest mill was a simple and fairly small post mill, the buck being about 9ft x 15ft in plan. Power came from two common and two spring sails, which used half elliptic springs. The sails ran clockwise and spanned about 70 feet. The windshaft was wooden, turned circular, 18ins square at the brakewheel and 14ins square at the tailwheel. The iron poll-end had a lifting boss formed on it and was fixed to the shaft in the unusual method found in the Bury area with a cap fitting over the shaft and four long bolts back into the wood shaft to captive nuts (Stanton mill has this and similar fixings can be seen on the upright shaft at Thelnetham and elsewhere).

The brakewheel (9ft) and tailwheel (6ft) were both clasp-arm timber construction but the tailwheel had been enlarged by bolting on a further ring of cants. Both drove a pair of stones direct and had iron tooth rings. The stones had been removed by the time the mill was examined in the 1930's. The brake was mostly of iron,

with wooden shoes at the top. There were corn bins either side of the windshaft, with virtually no floor as such. There was a flour dresser, and the sack hoist was driven by belt from the front of the brakewheel in the usual way.

Both bridgetrees pivoted on the crowntree on hangers and had brayers pivoting on the right side (facing forwards). The head governor was in the left corner of the mill and the tail governor was ahead of the stone spindle on the centre line, both being belt driven from the stone spindles. The post was turned circular within the buck. The spout floor virtually touched the tops of the quarter bars and there were large blind mortices below the tops of the quarter bars in the side of the post, probably for temporary support during erection although Rex Wailes speculates that the post was re-used from another mill. I doubt it myself. An unusual feature within the trestle was that 'knees' were fitted between the crosstrees and the post.

The roundhouse was painted white, and had a tarred boarded roof. The ladder was from elsewhere, as new door posts had been inserted to take it. The tailpole had been removed so iron rods braced it to the corners of the buck. The six-bladed fantail drove onto one wheel of the carriage, this being fitted with strakes.

It was a small post mill of the type to be found in south west Suffolk and down into Essex. While not particularly remarkable, it was beautifully situated and it is particularly unfortunate that it should have been deliberately destroyed to thwart preservation attempts which had begun in the late 1950's.

A.G.M. REPORT

The 1994 Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday June 12th at Pakenham windmill, by kind permission of Mike Bryant. Twenty members were present.

Proceedings commenced at 11.24am with a welcome from Chairman Chris Hullcoop. He said the Group's last A.G.M. at Pakenham windmill was no less than 15 years ago, in 1979, in the very same building. Apologies were received from Chris Armour, Sqn Ldr Birt, Desmond Drea, Ed Goatcher, Gareth Hughes, John Jordan, Bob Malster, Don Porter, Michael Roots, John Snowdon, Bob Starling and Alan Willmott.

The minutes of the 1993 A.G.M., published in Newsletter 57, were read by Peter Dolman. Under Matters Arising, Peter said that the Group's insurance policy had been taken over by Provincial Insurance of Haverhill, with only a small increase in premium. A plaque in memory of Richard Duke would be fixed to the roundhouse wall of Stanton post mill later in the summer. The proposed wording on the plaque was read out. The minutes were accepted as a fair record (proposed Brian Flint, seconded Chris Wilson).

The accounts were jointly presented by Peter Dolman and by Des Codd, who took charge of the books half way through the year. Income from subscriptions was up, reflecting the growth in membership. Over £700 had been received in donations in memory of Richard Duke. Interest in the deposit account was down by over

£200. On the debit side, printing costs were much higher but steps have now been taken to substantially reduce them. If the donations in memory of Richard Duke are excluded (which are a one-off), the Group made a loss of about £100. Len Ball proposed that the accounts be accepted; this was seconded by Roy Berry.

The Editor, Mark Barnard, reported that two newsletters had been issued since the last A.G.M., although the intention is to maintain an average of three a year. The S.M.G. word processor has greatly helped production of the newsletter and resulted in a much clearer typeface. Thanks to sophisticated new copying machines with built-in screens, the photographs now reproduce very well indeed. The print run is about 200. Ultimately, though, the quality of the newsletter depends on the material in it, and more articles are always needed. Michael Goodchild asked whether articles on foreign mills would be appropriate and was told that they would be welcomed, although priority would naturally be given to material relating to Suffolk or East Anglia. Peter Steggall thought that information on sources of grant aid would be useful. This led to a discussion about grants, and how they might be obtained. A dynamic approach was needed, like that displayed by the owner of Ford End watermill in Buckinghamshire. Chris Hullcoop thought that grant was more likely to be given for materials, although he accepted that quality of workmanship could be an unknown factor with some small groups. Wilf Foreman said the only large grant Wheatley windmill had ever got was £500 from the Co-op. Chris Hullcoop thanked Mark for his hard work as Editor. Penny Berry proposed that his report be accepted; this was seconded by Michael Goodchild.

Secretary Peter Dolman said that there were 166 paid-up full members and 4 Junior members. We exchange newsletters with 12 other mills groups. Roy Berry thought that information from other mills groups should be disseminated, and Mark Barnard said he would try to include news from other parts of the country in the newsletter whenever possible.

Peter Dolman raised the matter of subscription rates, in view of the loss the Group had made in the past year. Chris Wilson proposed that the new minimum annual rate should be £6. Roy Berry commented on the donations received from talks, many given by Peter Dolman, and said the Group should not have to rely on these. He seconded Chris Wilson's proposal. Chris Hullcoop pointed out that, although the Group's capital has been growing steadily, the time would soon come when this would be needed. Peter Filby thought a suitable note in the newsletter might elicit some donations of tools, etc.. A proposal to raise the minimum annual subscription rate to £6 was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

The existing committee was willing to serve for another year and their re-election en bloc was proposed by Michael Goodchild and seconded by Len Ball. There were no nominations for the spare place on the committee.

Michael Goodchild wondered if there was any way in which S.M.G. could help the Cambridgeshire Wind and Watermill Society, which was moribund. The feeling was that while potential does exist in the area, it needs someone to realise it. There were a

number of small groups centered on individual mills, such as Wicken. Roy Berry thought local authorities needed to be made aware of the role of mills in the National Curriculum. Peter Filby asked about the extent of Suffolk County Council's commitment towards mills. He was told that four windmills are either leased or owned, and that some grant aid is available to listed mills at risk from neglect.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.57pm. In the afternoon Chris Hullcoop gave an account of S.M.G. activity and other Suffolk mill news during the past year, illustrated with slides.

BOOK REVIEW Peter Dolman

The River Waveney, its Navigation and Watermills by Douglas Pluck. (Obtainable for £15.95 post free from the publisher, Morrow & Co., Wharton House, Bungay NR35 1EL)

Douglas Pluck (who is a member of S.M.G.) lives at Harleston and has produced a thoroughly researched history of the mills (mostly watermills) along the length of the nearby river Waveney, from the steam flax mill at Scole (included because of the importance of flax growing and processing in the area) to Geldeston mill in the east, plus Oakley mill on the main tributary, the river Dove. There are many illustrations including old photographs, although due to the paper used many have failed to reproduce as well as they might have. At nearly 200 pages, hardback, the book is a good read, and has so much technical and historical information packed in it that several read throughs will be necessary to extract every last drop!

Apart from short articles, only one booklet has so far appeared on the watermills of Suffolk (that reproduced from the Transactions of the Newcomen Society, by Rex Wailes), and that is full of inaccuracies. It is a little unfortunate then, that Douglas has had to resort to this work as source material since an opportunity to correct some of Wailes' erroneous statements has been lost. The worst example concerns Hoxne mill. Pluck quotes Wailes' primary gear ratio of 172:39; however, in the Inventory of 1855 reproduced as an appendix the correct ratio of 114:39 is given, as indeed it still remains to be seen. Likewise Wailes' dimensions for the waterwheel are quoted at 15ft 9ins x 6ft 8ins wide; it is actually 16ft 9ins x 6ft 7ins and is the original 1846 wheel by John Whitmore, the builder of the mill, not Knights. Knights probably made the present steel buckets and cast iron starts as the wheel had wooden ones originally (as in the 1855 Inventory). The flax mill only operated for a brief period as the 1846 rebuild was as a flour mill, largely as remaining today. A further mis-statement concerns the half-sack roller plant, said to remain. What actually remains is a small oat crusher and a kibbler. I have dwelt on this example because it demonstrates how easy it is to be misled, and I can't hold Douglas entirely responsible and I know that he was denied access to the mill at the time he was compiling the book and so was forced to resort to second-hand information.

Altogether, twenty mills and mill sites are described, most of

which are illustrated; there is an introduction to watermills which goes from their origins right up to roller milling technology; there is also a chapter on the history of the navigation, which had an effect on some of the mills at the lower end of the river.

I can thoroughly recommend this to any lover of Suffolk's watermills (most of the Waveney mills were on the Suffolk side of the river) and those whose interest covers the larger picture will also find the book of value in presenting a detailed look at mills in an area so far covered very marginally by writers on watermills.

One further quibble. S.P.A.B. and the Traditional Cornmillers' Guild get mentioned - why not Suffolk Mills Group too?

MILLS BY WHEELS: BARTLEY MILL, EAST SUSSEX

Patricia Parr

It was back in June 1988 on a bright Sunday afternoon that Dick and I took a trip down to Bells Yew Green, Frant where we called to visit the working Bartley mill (Grid Ref. TQ633356). The mill is situated in the valley of Winn streams, three miles from Tunbridge Wells, and lies just off the B2169 Lamberhurst road one mile east of Frant when leaving the small hamlet of Bells Yew Green.

As we drove down into the valley we were immediately confronted by the old grey stone mill which is steeped in history, going back as far as the thirteenth century when it belonged to the monks of Bayham Abbey. After the Reformation it became privately owned. Today under the watchful eye of its owner Mr. Piers Garnham once again the heart of the mill beats within its ancient walls. Mr. Garnham's family are not new to the milling world for they owned Victoria mills, Pledge & Sons, of Ashford, Kent, established for well over a hundred years until a disastrous day in 1984 when the mill was burnt down and never rebuilt.

In 1985 the family bought Bartley mill along with its 180-acre farm. The mill was in a poor state of repair and needed a lot of internal and outer structural work. In April 1987 they opened its doors to the public, and milling can be viewed at 2.30pm every Saturday and Sunday. The organic flour produced is used by several of the local bakeries and in the bakery alongside where homemade bread, scones and cakes are made. You can sample all these goodies by a short climb upstairs where a cosy tea shop provides you with the added opportunity to partake of tea and hot toasted scones, along with the pleasant sound of the waterwheel turning rhythmically below. What more could any milling enthusiast require, unless perhaps another homemade scone!

The Garnham family do not let the grass - or should I say corn - grow beneath their feet for back in August 1988 they entered a Corn to Bread Record Breaker. In the shortest time possible the corn is cut, ground and 13 loaves are baked in the course of an hour. On a very hot day in August 1988, just before 3pm, they fired the starting gun in the family corn field close by

and the record was on. The combine harvester was immediately brought into action and in a matter of minutes one sack of wheat was produced and instantly rushed off to the waiting Land Rover, which made a 400-yard dash to the eagerly-waiting mill. Having reached the approximate amount of corn needed for a baker's dozen loaves it was hastily tipped straight into the hopper over hungrily awaiting millstones. When they had ground roughly the right amount, it was rushed into the bakery where Piers quickly proceeded to mix the dough, and then kneaded and proved it before placing it into the awaiting hot oven. Just 20 minutes later the freshly smelling baker's dozen loaves saw the light of day. But before the record could be accepted, an edibility test had to be carried out by one of the official party which witnessed the attempt. The Mayor of Tunbridge Wells proudly acclaimed Bartley mill the winner, in a record time of 40 minutes 8 seconds, now in the Guinness Book of Records. Mr. Garnham knocked eight seconds off the previous record. I would be interested to know if the Bartley mill record has since been broken and by whom?

Although the mill has an internal working wheel, it can also be assisted by an electric motor, and works one pair of the two pairs of stones. I am not terribly knowledgeable on the technical side of the internal machinery of mills, but you can see for yourself if you are ever down in this scenic part of East Sussex.

For the more energetic members, there is a delightful 13-mile walk around the perimeter of the nearby Bewl Water Reservoir. On the way you will pass the now house-converted Dunster watermill that was dismantled and rebuilt on higher ground when the valley was flooded in 1972. Between April and October permits can be obtained by anglers and boats are available for hire at the Fishing Lodge. Within a short distance of Bewl Water stands the lovely thirteenth century ruined Bayham Abbey, and a little way down in the valley in the village of Lamberhurst you will find the picturesque National Trust-owned fourteenth-century moated Scotney Castle. The moat was formed by diverting the River Bewl. Here in June and July you can acquire the most delicious strawberry and cream teas while sitting back relaxing on the grass slopes that look down upon this tranquil piece of England's heritage.

FOR SALE

Cast iron floodgates available to good home

By E.R. & F. Turner, engineers, Ipswich, 1871. Cast iron frame and five one-piece gates with flashes and worm reduction paddle gear, overall width 14ft., height of frame 6ft 6ins, depth of gate without flash 4ft 8ins. These gates are in full working order, having been used at Boxted mill on the river Stour in Essex until this year when an automatic sluice was installed. The mill itself vanished 70 years ago. The owner wishes them to go to a good home, one where they will be used if possible, and only requires a nominal payment, such as their scrap value. Offers please, to Mrs. C. Whitworth-Jones, on 0206 322278.

MILL NEWS

NEW ROOF PLANNED FOR BUXHALL MILL

Anders Mossesson and his friends hope to fit a new cap roof to Buxhall tower mill, starting soon. The roof must be inexpensive, easy to make and fit, 100% watertight, long-lasting and virtually maintenance free. Quite a tall order. S.M.G. has been asked to advise and my mind goes back to the holding roof put on the Bardwell tower in just nine days in 1979.

At Buxhall the windshaft and sails, flyposts, upper winding gear and cap roof were removed many years ago but the cap frame was retained and a strong concrete roof fitted just below it. The cast iron curb segments are still in place and in good condition but the elm below them is rotten. The segments need to be brought inboard onto the concrete roof. Past experience shows that once machinery and components are removed from their original location they become vulnerable to disposal and their long term survival is unlikely. The cap frame, although in poor

condition, is plenty strong enough to support a new roof. The two sheer trees could be overlain with RSJ's or channels which would project at the tail to hold the lower winding gear and support a small platform. The 25-30 ribs could be constructed like those made for Bardwell, using planks about 6"x1", cut into 18" lengths, nailed and glued together to produce ribs 6"x2", about 20ft long. The original finial is kept in the mill and with luck it could be repaired and re-used.

The cladding on a cap like this is best made from aluminium sheet. It is cheap, easy to fit and virtually maintenance free. It can be left to weather to a silvery grey or painted white. Of course traditional is best, but it would cost twice as much, be difficult to make and need painting every three years. With a future maintenance question mark over all mills let alone incomplete towers, compromises have to be made. Someone once said 'The best is often the enemy of the good'. Perhaps enemy is too strong a word here. The best would look magnificent for a few precious years, but if maintenance fell behind the good would quickly replace the best as the most practical long-term covering.

We wish Anders and his team every success in bringing a good roof and with it dignity to the great black tower of Buxhall. We will report on progress. (C.H.)



PROGRESS AT THORINGTON STREET

There is not much to record since last time. Ten of the new buckets have been fitted and the two broken starts repaired; another five buckets remain to be done. The wheel runs very smoothly now, needing virtually no water to turn light. It grinds much better as well, although it is rather underpowered with the reduced waterflows of recent years. Several sessions of milling have occurred with very good flour being produced. As the mill is not registered as food premises (and is unlikely to be allowed to be!) it will not be possible to sell flour through retail outlets.

Work under way at present is the repair of the last of the mill windows and the fitting of the new lucam window (the casements of which were supplied by Quentin Garlick). While mentioning names I must thank Chris Armour who gave several days of his valuable time to fit the new buckets. In March a party of children from a Colchester school came to do further dredging work and the tailrace now runs much better, having been deepened over about 30 yards or so. Other work planned is the repair of the second stone tun so that the French stones can be run.

Due to lack of general support and increasing other commitments I will not be naming specific work days in future. However, if anyone wishes to lend a hand I would be very pleased to have it, either at weekends or in evenings. Contact me on Ipswich 742388 if you are able to help. (Peter Dolman)

SPROUGHTON WATERMILL

The listed building application for complete demolition (see the last newsletter) was approved by Babergh District Council and was referred to the Department of the Environment, as the law requires. The DoE has decided to 'call in' the application and there will now be a public inquiry before an independent inspector to decide the fate of the mill. A date for this has yet to be set.

MILLS ON THE MARKET

The house-converted watermill at Kedington, the highest on the river Stour, is for sale. The waterwheel and principal machinery were retained in the conversion, although the mill ceased work as long ago as 1901. It comes with one acre of grounds, including the mill pond, and offers in the region of £250,000 are invited. The agents are Hamptons (0284 767338).

We understand that Little Glemham mill has now been sold and hope that it has better luck now than in past years.

PROGRESS AT DRINKSTONE

The saga of repairs at Drinkstone mills continues this summer as we hope to complete the roof of the smock mill cap. The ribs for the last five bays are fitted and we now have to cover with plywood and aluminium. The work to the tiles of the post mill roundhouse roof is now complete and it only remains to fit an edging. Some years ago we 'pointed up' the tiles with lime mortar, but the roof was so bad the only way to make a lasting repair has been with a strong cement and sand mixture. This enables the tiles

to hold one to another but of course means that none can be salvaged for re-use in the future. This does not matter here as the tiles are either old soft clays too brittle and flaked for re-use, various Rosemaries, Dreadnoughts and Victorias and a lot of modern concrete tiles, none capable or worthy of re-use anywhere.

If 5,000 good quality new or reclaimed tiles were available it would be foolish to place them on rotten rafters, so all the rafters would need replacement. It would be foolish to set new rafters on a rotten wallplate so a new one would have to be made. It would be foolish to put a new wallplate over areas of wall between the piers which need rebuilding using the original bricks and flints. So where do you stop? In this case at the ground, a mighty job for which we do not have a fraction of the money and manpower required. We have to be realistic and do what we *can* do, not necessarily what we would like to do.

It would be nice to have some help at Drinkstone this summer so if you can spare a day or two, give me a call on Felixstowe 671462. (Chris Hullcoop)

EVENTS

VISIT TO FELIXSTOWE DOCK ROLLER MILL: THURSDAY AUGUST 11th; meet at the mill at 6pm. sharp

The great roller mill at Felixstowe was built in 1905-7 for Marriages of Colchester, beside the dock basin. It was subsequently re-fitted several times, including since 1977 when S.M.G. last visited, and is now part of the Rank Hovis empire. The tall brick chimney which served the original steam engine still stands.

The mill is now in the middle of one of Europe's largest container ports. To reach it take No.2 Gate and, after 300 yards, turn left into Dyke Road, and follow this road for $\frac{2}{3}$ mile. We hope this evening visit to see a commercial mill in action will be well supported. Please be prompt as we will have a guided tour.

VISIT TO BARNINGHAM MILL: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25th, at 2.30pm.

The original part of this attractive weatherboarded former steam mill was converted from a malting in the 1820's. It worked with two post mills until the 1850's, and then alone until the 1930's. It was subsequently re-fitted as a feed mill. It is now a rare example of a small-scale country mill, and has a fine atmosphere inside. Sadly this may be a last chance to see it, for it is likely to close in the near future and be converted to residential use.

The mill is on the B1111 road in the centre of the village and is easily found. We visit by kind permission of Mr. D. Pettitt.

HERRINGFLEET MARSH MILL OPEN DAY: SUNDAY OCTOBER 2nd, 1-5pm

Herringfleet's third public opening of 1994 will be the Sunday after the Barningham visit. Come if you can! Details from Mark Barnard on 0473 265162.