

SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter

No. 79

February 2001

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



The few weeks since the last newsletter have brought the exciting news of a precise felling date for the tree used to make the post of Drinkstone mill - around a century earlier than the well-known 1689 date carved on one of the principal buck timbers. Details of this and other developments at Drinkstone can be found inside. On the subject of Drinkstone, our social evening hosted by Alex and Rosy Hayward was well attended, and when the slides started I think we set a new record for the number of people squeezed inside the sitting room of the mill cottage! Thanks to all who made the evening such a success.

Despite a well-timed favourable change in the weather on New Year's Day, our opening of Herringfleet mill had to be cancelled. When repairing the brake just after Christmas, millwright Richard Seago discovered that some kind soul had stolen the brass bearing at the outer end of the scoopwheel shaft. There wasn't time to do anything about it. Not only that, but Chris Hullcoop, who was to help run the mill, had damaged his foot in an incident involving a motorcycle, a concrete gatepost and much cursing! Just as well perhaps that no-one contacted me to check if the mill would be running.

Many thanks to those who have sent me material for this newsletter. It's reassuring to see my editorial folder slightly thicker, although as ever I would welcome more.

The next newsletter will appear in late May or early June. Events until then are summarised below.

S.M.G. public meeting, Ipswich	Saturday February 17th
SPAB Windmill Meeting, London	Saturday March 17th
Miller's Trail Steam Engine Run	Sat/Sun April 28th-29th
National Mills Weekend	Sat/Sun May 12th-13th
SPAB Mills Section Day Tour	Saturday May 19th

Mark Barnard

PUTTING MILLS IN THE PICTURE (13) Peter Steggall

BALDWIN OF BECCLES

I must start by thanking our editor, Mark Barnard, for sending me particulars of a Suffolk artist and copies of some of his pictures, and suggesting they might be used for an article in this series.

The particulars, printed for an exhibition in 1980, tell us that Frederick William Baldwin was born in 1899, son of a Suffolk builder and architect, and that he lived most of his life in the Beccles area. Although he also painted in Scotland, Wales and the

Continent, most of his work as a 'landscape and architectural artist' was produced within ten miles of Beccles. This all reminded me that I had first encountered Baldwin's work in 'A Suffolk Garland for the Queen', a book celebrating the Queen's 'Royal Progress' through the county in 1961. It is a truly fascinating book in words and pictures by many of our best-known artists and authors. The illustrations include two fine detailed



Two views of Carter's Mill, Wrentham, by Baldwin (1954)

The Westhall picture, dated 1936 and measuring 15" x 10", in watercolour and pencil, is a most unusual and remarkably detailed drawing, framed by the woodwork round the doorway of the buck, and looking out over the external platform at the top of the steps. Parts of the fantail and its frame are just visible. Down below is a gateway and outbuildings, and a steam traction engine. Beyond them are two people apparently walking along a road, and in the distance are fields and hedges and a few houses. I have tried to descibe in words what is in the picture because I think it will be difficult to pick out all the details in the present small reproduction. Twenty years later Baldwin drew the mill again, a superb study of the mill in its final days which appeared on the cover of the 1980 exhibition catalogue.

Brian Flint in 'Suffolk Windmills' (1979) tells us that when the mill was struck by lightning in 1931 a Mr Beans was killed. The mill (Grid Ref. 409816) was demolished in 1957, but the roundhouse survived as a store for at least another twenty years. I drove through the hamlet of Mill Common, Westhall, in August 2000, but had too little time to find out if the roundhouse was still there, nor did I try to discover what the view from the mill site would reveal now. I think it would be very different because of the large number of new houses that have been built in recent years.

I will end by thanking Mark again, and recording my appreciation of the help I had from Ipswich Borough Council Museums and Galleries, with whose permission 'View from Doorway, Westhall Windmill' is reproduced on the preceding page.



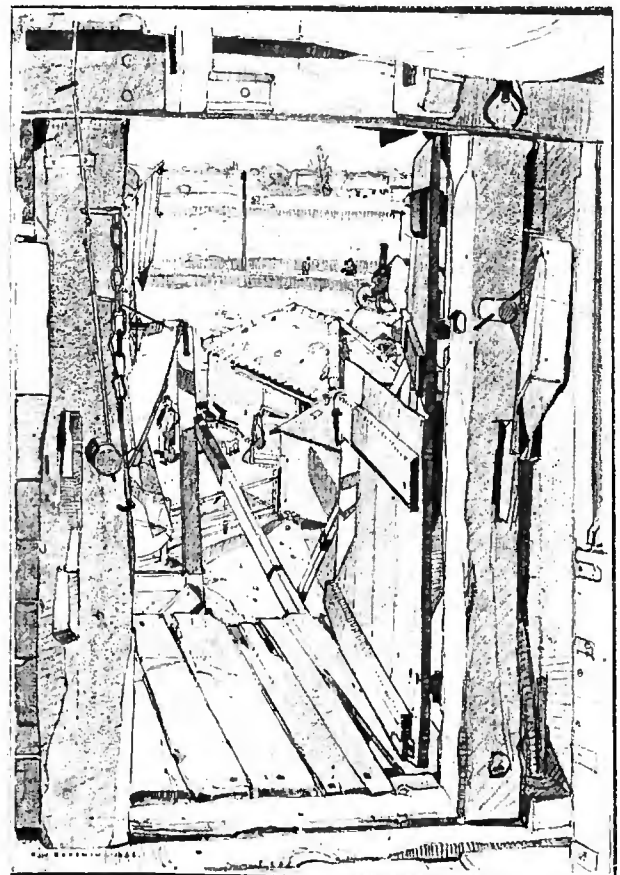
Westhall Mill, by Frederick Baldwin (1956)

drawings by Baldwin. One is of the centre of Beccles with its massive detached church tower; the other is of a post mill at Wrentham in 1954. The copies which Mark sent to me included two of the same mill, seen from different angles, and obviously in a state of advanced dereliction.

It was Carter's Mill, a large post mill destined to be demolished the following year. The history of that mill, and two others in the village, was recorded by Peter Dolman in a 'Vanished Mills' article in Newsletter 61 (February 1995), and the following short extract is of some interest in relation to the two pictures by Baldwin (reproduced on the previous page). 'As it ended up Carter's Mill was a fine and very tall mill, the tall roundhouse having two floors. This came about because the daughter of a miller was killed while playing and being hit by a sail. The mill was raised eight feet as a result.' It stood on the west side of the Southwold Road (Grid Ref. 499819) on the edge of the village, near the 'Five Bells' public house.

I was in the area in August 2000 but could find no trace of the mill, although 'Mill House' still stands, in excellent condition, by the roadside. Strutt and Parker, estate agents, offering it for sale in the Spring, called it 'a pretty late Georgian house', and invited offers in the region of £175,000. When I saw it, it was obviously occupied, but no one was at home. It is a quite attractive house, of red brick (perhaps made at the nearby South Cove brickworks?), with a roof of shiny black pantiles. I was interested to see that the bricks were laid on edge, instead of flat, each course consisting of alternate headers and stretchers, but they are seen only on the front and south side. The north wall is painted black, and the back wall is faced with pebbles set in mortar. The back of the house can be seen in one of Baldwin's pictures.

A few months before my visit I had ascertained that some of Baldwin's pictures were in the collection of Ipswich Borough Council's Museums and Galleries, and I obtained photocopies of a few. Later a member of the staff, Lisa Harris, showed me some of the originals which, incidentally, are normally in store. Of particular interest to me were a beautiful detailed drawing of the interior of the 17th century chapel at Walpole, and a view from the doorway of Westhall post mill (reproduced on right).



CROSSWORD COMPETITION Compiled by Mark Barnard

Yes, I've managed to compile another! Once again, all the clues are connected with mills and milling, with obscure or very difficult solutions avoided. To enter, please fill in the form at the end of the newsletter using the clues below and send it to the Editor. The closing date for entries is Saturday June 2nd. The draw will be made at our A.G.M. which is usually towards the end of June. The winner will receive a £20 book token. There are about a dozen 'regulars' who I know will enter, but how about some more of you giving it a go? Test your mill knowledge - you may be surprised!!

CLUES ACROSS

1. A Suffolk tower mill, or another in Sussex! (7)
7. The last post mill to carry a roof fantail (9)
9. Nottinghamshire tower mill, recipient of a SPAB Mills Section Plaque in 1995 (7)
10. One of Soham's windmills (9)
12. Milling family long associated with Cranbrook mill (7)
14. William Cobbett counted 17 windmills near this town in his *Rural Rides* (7)
17. The outer part of a cereal grain (4)
18. Bedfordshire's last complete windmill (10)
24. Cross -- Hand was the last Sussex windmill to cease work by wind (2)
25. See 37. Across
26. Type of millstone (4)
27. The rear of a post mill (4)
28. Auxillary power source (3)
29. Campsea ----, a Suffolk mill on the River Deben (4)
31. Working mill close to the centre of Nottingham (8)
33. Fixing for runner stone (4)
35. Type of governor (3)
36. The central beam in a cap frame (8)
37. (& 25.) Yorkshire's best windmills are found here (4,6)

CLUES DOWN

1. A windmill in Woodbridge (8)
2. First name of the author of *The English Windmill* (3)
3. Eighteenth century windmill sail innovator (6)
4. This stock is fairly good! (8)
5. Is meal drawn through this sifter? (4)
6. Most watermill sites will have one (4)
8. Fine stone dressing (9)
11. Dutch pioneer of streamlined sails (6)
13. Found below the hopper (4)
15. Turns the sails (4)
16. Central European cradle of modern roller milling (7)
19. Much photographed Broadland drainage mill (6)
20. U.S. State which recently hosted the 10th TIMS Symposium (8)
21. Small gearwheel (3)
22. Part of the striking gear (8)
23. Lubricates (4)
30. One of the few complete multi-sailed mills outside Lincolnshire (5)
32. Type of hammer driven by some water-powered mills (4)
33. ---- balk, another name for the weatherbeam (4)
34. Name given to the top floor of any windmill (4)

VANISHED MILLS Peter Dolman

ERISWELL WINDMILLS

The tithe map (1839) names 'Mill Field' in the vicinity of TL723790 and in his book 'Eriswell Court Leet Orders 1629-1794' (1963), J.T. Munday writes 'During the period....the manor windmill stood on the ridge of high ground near where the Gate House has since been built'. This is presumably referring to the same site.

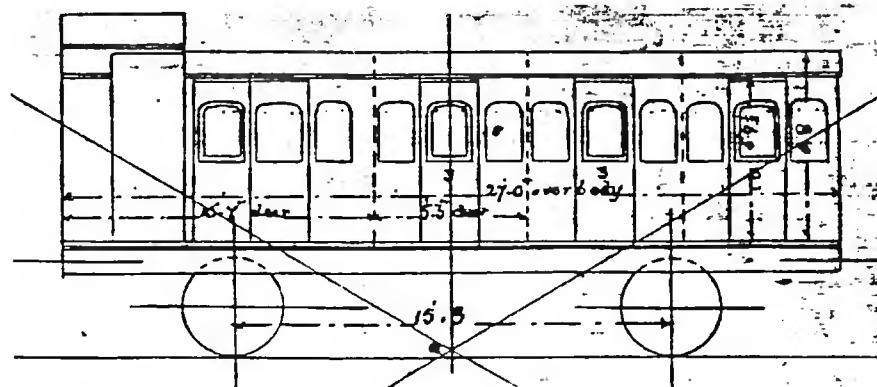
No maps show a mill in the village until the 1881 Ordnance Survey however, at Little Eriswell (TL723801). The windmill seems to have gradually taken over from the nearby watermill and as such it is difficult to be precise as to its date of erection. The first definite reference to it is a sale notice of 'Steam and Tower Mills' in the *Cambridgeshire Independent Press* of 20th February 1858, when Shadrack Newdick is given as proprietor. In the 1851 census he is still resident at Hall Farm, beside the watermill, but may have had the windmill as well by this time. In style it was very similar to Little Thurlow mill near Haverhill, which was built by 1846, reputedly by the millwright Hunt of Soham. The census of 1861 lists Samuel Skepper (29) as miller, along with Harry Hills (25). These may have been tenants or paid millers. The next millers were George William Graves and Gracious Cole, whose partnership as millers, merchants and farmers was dissolved by notice in the *London Gazette* of October 3rd 1862. Gracious Cole continued alone, and is so recorded by an 1864 directory. In 1868 William Smith is recorded at the mill and by the 1871 census Edmund Jefferies (30) was there. He continued until at least 1904. In November 1903 one of the mill sails was blown off, narrowly missing one of the men employed to work the mill. A photograph of about this date shows the mill in the process of receiving two new sails. Hunts of Soham gave it a thorough overhaul in 1915. The last miller was Frederick A. Ayres and he is listed until 1922. At about this time the mill was taken down, leaving just the base, which survives to this day. It is now owned by the Elveden Estate and is used as a store.



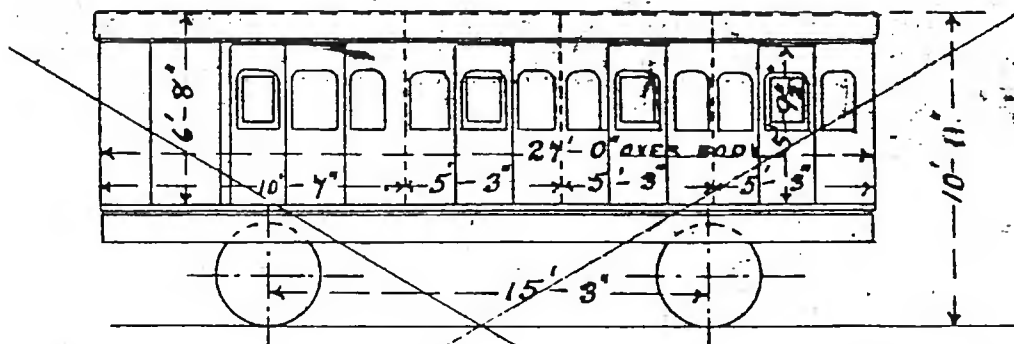
The mill was a smock mill, with an ogee shape cap with gallery, fantail and four patent sails. No record of the equipment is to hand but a mill of this size could have driven up to three pairs of stones. The base, which is about ten feet in height, contains a single bridge beam across the centreline, which has had a single footstep bearing. There are score marks from the sack hoist chain and the beam has beaded edges and has been varnished, apparently during its working life. This is unusual and shows that the mill was probably fitted up to a high standard. In 1975 there was the remains of a French stone leaning against it and a very worn Peak stone, which may have been used as a doorstep.

THE PAKENHAM RAILWAY CARRIAGE Mark Barnard

The buildings surrounding a windmill or watermill are often an important part of its setting. Among these buildings are occasionally former railway rolling stock, sold off by the railway companies once their life on the rails was over. Some time ago I received from S.M.G. member Steven Binks some notes on the history of the two former railway carriages at Pakenham windmill and Drinkstone mills. The notes were researched by John Watling, an expert on railway carriage history, and I would like to thank him for his kind help.

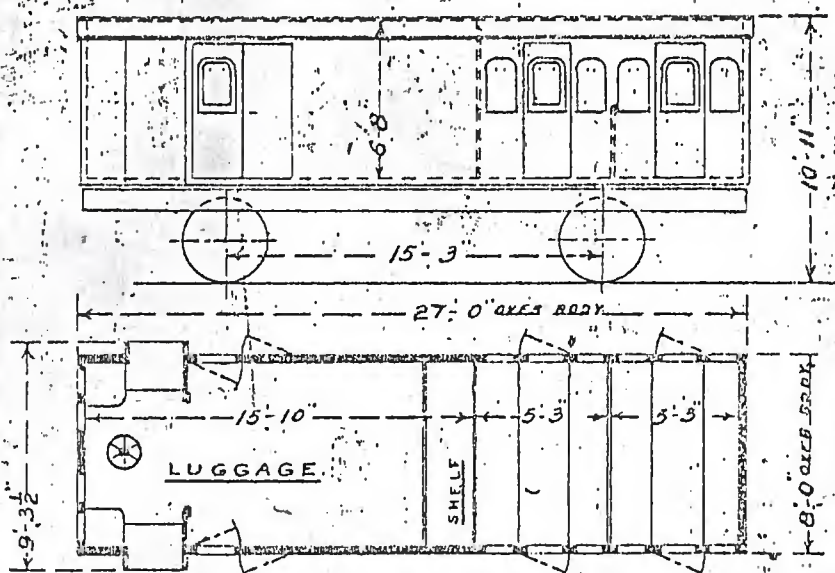


The carriage as built, with birdcage roof



The carriage without birdcage roof but with 3 compartments

G. E. R.
4TH PERIOD 1876-80.
DIAGRAM N^o 14600-504
BRAKE THIRD CLASS CARRIAGE



TO SEAT 20-3RD CLASS PASSENGERS
TOTAL WEIGHT EMPTY 9-12-2.

NUMB
DATE

The carriage as withdrawn, with dimensions and layout



The Pakenham carriage body today, with the former guards compartment nearest the camera

The carriage body next to the tower of Pakenham mill was built in September 1877 for the Great Eastern Railway as a main line brake third, one of an order constructed by the Birmingham Carriage & Wagon Co.. The batch was numbered 348 to 377, the Pakenham body being No.370. Payment was made by instalments, at £51 14s 8d for five years. As first built it had a birdcage roof to the guards compartment, in common with all G.E.R. main line brake thirds of the period. This roof was removed c.1890 and the present lookouts (the bulges on each side) fitted.

Three compartments were originally provided but at an unknown period, perhaps c.1890 when the birdcage was removed, one compartment was abolished and the guards accommodation enlarged. Withdrawal occurred in the first half of 1912. Latterly the carriage was in use on London suburban services.

The carriage body is thought to have been brought to its present site in the late 1940's for use as a grain store for the windmill. Prior to this it had been used as a house by a gypsy family on the Thetford road in Ixworth. It was transported by Bob Pye and set on concrete blocks which had been made to block off roads during the war.

Today the carriage is intact but in poor condition. Longitudinal wrought iron girders form the chassis, with heavy cross-timbers at each end. Inside you can see where two cross-partitions have been removed, and a big hole in the floor at the guards end for the handbrake control. There is flaking chocolate or dark brown/black paintwork and diagonal floorboarding in the passenger compartments, all presumably untouched from railway days, and sliding ventilators above the windows still work! The carriage is used as a store (the famous Pakenham mill model is in pieces inside), but its long-term future is decidedly uncertain. Now that the mill has been restored, it would make an interesting place for an interpretive display for mill visitors.

The second part of this article will describe the even older carriage body at Drinkstone.

THE MILLER'S GUIDE

S.M.G. member Simon Cauthery, who used to work in the milling industry, came across this guidance to millers during a recent sort out of his old books and papers. It seems to be of local origin, the publishers being R.R. Smith of Stowmarket, and describes itself thus: 'Being a set of Practical Rules as adopted by some of the best Millers, abridged from a work preparing for the press, by R.R. SMITH (inventor of the exhaust as now used) and J. ELLIS, assisted by some of the best practical Millers of the day.' Can any member tell us more?

First, with regard to your proof (for I am supposing every miller to have one, as it is the very foundation of all good milling). And have you proved your proof to be correct by rectifying two staffs to the proof? If they fit when put together the proof is correct. A slate proof is preferable, and it is not half the trouble or expense to make, and is never known to vary,

but it must be three or four inches thick, or it will be useless. Many iron proofs cannot be depended upon at all times, but are affected by temperature, or the way in which they are supported.

Second. Rectify your staff to the proof. The best you can procure cannot be depended upon, but must be proved just before using. If not correct, put a little oil (very evenly distributed) on the proof, reduce all the highest places on the staff until it just shows an equal bearing on every part.

Third. To prove the stone. Place a piece of writing paper under each end of the staff, and one under the middle, placing the staff three inches from the eye. Try the stone thus all round; if right, it will hold all the papers.

Fourth. To prove a new stone. Place a screw with the head rounded to form a pivot for the staff to turn upon in the eye of the stone, make a place in the staff about a quarter of an inch deep, lower the screw until the staff if the stone is true, will just swing round, and if not staff it in this way, lowering the screw until it is.

Fifth. To staff the stone. They should both staff with a good face from the skirt just on to the eye burrs. If not satisfactory when the staff is laid on, make them right with a rubbing burr, or even with a sharp bill if much out, and staff them again, rubbing the colouring off each time with a piece of white brick until they are right.

Sixth. To dress the stones. 16 or 18 cracks to the inch is best for wheat to be cracked clean just on to the eye burrs. The eye burrs to be cleaned off with a sharp bill, so that a piece of writing paper will just draw. Some persons use a staff about fifteen inches long to skin them off by, others very much object to its use, but it is important the eye burrs should be very smooth and true, as it is here the bran is made. The skirt cleans it. Give the stones room to draw the corn by lowering the runner just round the eye, so that a staff laid across the stone will not touch a grain of wheat laid on half an inch from the eye. At four inches from the eye just draw a paper.

Or the corn can be drawn by giving the master furrows one inch more draft the first six inches at the eye; keeping the eye burrs up just to draw a paper. There is nothing gained by giving the rest of the furrows too much draft, but, one way or other, the stone must be allowed to obtain its feed freely. The secret of good grinding is in avoiding to have the stone too hollow, which will be the case, if in staffing the staff is rubbed much on the stone. The stone should be rubbed to fit the staff, not the staff to fit the stone; no part should ever be allowed to be glazed or hard. They will require dressing after running 80 to 100 hours.

The furrows can be kept in good order by almost any miller, if a staff about six inches long and one inch wide is used to show the high places. A very good hand at furrowing can seldom be induced to use it; if used it reduces the time, judgement, and skill that is required to do without it. The master furrow being a little deeper toward the eye will admit the corn more freely.

SPEED

A four-foot stone requires to run about 120 revolutions per minute. Cover the damsels with leather and have them beat on hard wood, - the sound will be so reduced as not to annoy, the leather will last many years. The stone working on a centre is the best principle. Prove the irons once or twice in a year with papers between the ears of the mace. If much worn into each other the stone will not work freely on the nipple. Keep the wears upright and true, and before the stone is laid on the irons, rub a small quantity of grease on the ears of the driver. If the stone is well balanced (all new stones should have balance boxes) and true, and the irons are in proper order, it may be driven empty at its full speed, and it should not touch the bed stone. Some millers prove the stone thus every six months.

Small millstones will not feed well if the wheat touch the damsel; if it does, the damsel will strike it against the eye, and it will be carried round in the eye by centrifugal force on account of the speed (250 for 3 feet) at which they require to be driven. It is difficult to avoid making too many middlings with very small millstones.

ON GRINDING

Nothing can be said with reference to grinding until the stones are true, in face, and well off for furrow.

Many spoutsmen have been blamed for bad work when they were not in fault. Nothing is more tiresome in the business than to attend to stones that are not right, or where the support under the step is not strong enough. It should be proved to see if the brass lowers when it receives the weight of the stone.

In starting a sharp stone, it should not be lowered too quick or given too much feed, as there is danger of injuring the cutting nature of the stone. Keep the stone as cool as possible. If it works warm, and the bran is not clean, the stone has too much feed.

If the stone is low enough and it curls the bran, provided it is not too low and short of feed, and the bran feels hard, it is a true sign the stones are too strong about the breast and eye.

The meal should feel mellow and lively, with little middlings. Grinding low is no benefit to master millers; it injures the colour and strength of the flour, so that the quality must be made up by grinding superior wheats.

ROBT. NETHERCOTT

FACING OR FINISHING A NEW STONE

Draw out a bed eight or nine inches wide across the middle of the stone, through the lowest burrs; face this space down by a true staff. Next place a wood peg in the centre of the eye, pare it down till you can just feel it with the staff; draw another bed at right angles to the first, and face this down until you can feel the peg with the staff; face the four quarters down to these beds and the stone will be true. This properly belongs to the millstone maker.

TO PREPARE THE STONE FOR GRINDING

Place a screw in the centre with a rounded head, make a place in the staff for this to work in, and lower the staff by the screw, and feel the staff round the stone with a little colouring on the staff; take it off with a sharp bill. The stone may thus be made perfectly true, if the staff is kept in order, but it will require to be rectified almost every staffing. To put in the dress remove the screw, and fix an iron or wood peg in the place, divide the circumference into the same number of equal spaces that you intend to have quarters, make a hole in a thin piece of wood the distance from the edge that you intend to have the draft (say $2\frac{1}{4}$ or $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches to the fore edge), place it upon the peg, and draw a line to each marked division on the circumference.

For a close four-foot stone, 10 quarters 4 inches draft to the back of the furrow, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch furrow, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch land. If very close, they may have the furrows a little wider; a large number of quarters cut the eye burrs up too much. I have seen almost every number tried, from 8 to 18.

In putting a new stone to work some persons feed them with sharp sand and water, but it is a very dangerous proceeding, as there is danger of the stones suddenly griping each other, and bringing the mill to a stand, and most probably breaking the machinery, and if not properly fed with water the heat will destroy the cutting quality of the stone.

NEWS

DRINKSTONE MILLS: PROGRESS DURING 2000

Dendrochronology

Martin Bridge from London University has been engaged by English Heritage to date timbers from the post mill using dendro-chronology. Two visits were made before Christmas to take cores from the post, trestle, quarter bars and buck framing. Approximately two dozen samples were collected (12mm diameter and 250mm long) and all the core holes were then filled with softwood dowel. Initial findings on the post reveal that it was felled in the winter of 1586-87, which means it is likely that it was first worked on in 1587. This predates the carved date in the buck by just over a century. It will be interesting to see how old the remaining timbers are and what evidence they provide for a chronology of construction and rebuilding over subsequent centuries. English Heritage's final report is expected to be completed by mid 2001.

English Heritage

Throughout 2000 discussion with several representatives of English Heritage led to the submission of an application for grant aid to assist with the repair and conservation of the post mill. Vincent Pargeter has been engaged as our expert advisor and he subsequently met with Bill Dodd, English Heritage's grant advisor, to discuss the grant application. Throughout the autumn Vincent made several other visits to the mill to assess its condition and begin to develop a schedule of repair work. Mark Uggles, a structural engineer from English Heritage, has also

been visiting the post mill to monitor any structural movement - in particular the leaning brick piers supporting the trestle timbers. The final programme of work will also need to take into account the findings of the dendrochronology survey.

Fundraising - FoDMaM

Vincent Pargeter's assessment of work necessary to get the post mill back into sound operating condition suggests that the total cost is likely to be between £120,000 to £150,000. Even if English Heritage makes a generous contribution there will still be many tens of thousands of pounds to raise. We will therefore need to give serious attention to fundraising from now on, and hope that the Friends of Drinkstone Mills and Meadow (FoDMaM) will be able to develop the capacity to make a significant contribution to this work.

Oil Engine

Finally, one of the newest items of equipment on the remarkable Drinkstone Mills site was brought back to life late last year. The Ruston-Hornsby oil engine, built in 1929 and which the Clover family believe was installed in 1932, powered grist milling gear in the smock mill for around 40 years. Between then and our arrival it lay dormant, but, after a mechanical overhaul and careful cleaning of the original 'show finish' paint, it was successfully started on 29th October 2000. It was started again on Boxing Day and ran even more sweetly. The next project will be to get the engine successfully driving the pair of stones on the ground floor of the smock mill, and then milling can recommence at Drinkstone!

(Alex & Rosy Hayward)



Martin Bridge taking a core from the base of the post at Drinkstone

PROGRESS AT STANTON

Since the last newsletter work has continued on the shutters. All 108 frames are now assembled and a couple have been covered with hessian to work out the procedure. Unfortunately the hessian, which was carefully selected to closely match the original shutters, took a month to arrive from the factory in Dundee. This was very frustrating as we were all geared up ready to go.

Work has been continuing with the repair and restoration of the stone tun, and this is now starting to come together. Much remains to do however and it would be fair to say that a new one would have taken less than half the time!

Once the weather improves work will recommence on the assembly of the sails and clamps, and on painting the mill roof and shutters. A reminder that the next 'mini work-in' is on March 3rd-4th and the two main 'work-ins' will be May 26th - June 3rd and August 18th - 27th. Please help if you can; contact Peter Dolman (01358 250622) if interested in coming along, or in joining the team of shutter seamstresses. (P.D.)



Peter Dolman completing assembly of the Stanton shutters

MACHINERY AVAILABLE

The owner of a Suffolk watermill is offering some items of mill machinery. The mill was house converted some 20 years ago, when the surviving machinery was put into store. It is now just taking up unnecessary space and the owner would like to donate it to a good home. The machinery is not complete, as the mill was stripped of all its iron gear in the 1960's or earlier and the small machinery suffered to some extent. The machines all date from around 1895 and are a purifier (quite large and possibly American), a smallish 'dicky sieve' (reciprocating flour sifter) and a Eureka smutter. There are also some screw conveyors and elevator trunking. Anyone interested should contact Peter Dolman.

THELNETHAM MILL FOR SALE?

Those of you that belong to the S.P.A.B. Mills Section will have probably noticed the large advert proclaiming that Thelnetham mill is for sale. Unfortunately the preceding introduction to the basic details was edited out so a somewhat false picture may have been given.

The owners of the mill, a partnership of six, most of whom are S.M.G. members, have been contemplating the long-term future of the mill, mindful of the passage of years and increasing commitments elsewhere. It is now difficult for the partners to devote enough time to open the mill each summer, let alone carry out essential repairs. Various options are possible, one of which would be to sell the mill to the right person (either individual, group or organisation), but the decision to sell will not be taken lightly. If no suitable solution can be found, the present arrangement will continue, at least for the medium term.

Any member with suggestions, or who might be personally interested, should contact Peter Dolman (01359 250622).

MILLS ON THE INTERNET

The *Images of England Project* aims to take a photograph of each of England's 360,000 listed buildings, and to link these to publicly available information about them such as their list description. The Project is managed by the National Monuments Record, the public archive of English Heritage, and is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Royal Photographic Society (RPS). Some 550 volunteer photographers have been recruited, each one a member of the RPS, their brief being to capture a 'defining image' of each of the buildings they are allocated.

In autumn 2000 the first batch of photos (some 15,000) were put on a prototype website, www.imagesofengland.org.uk You can search by area, building type, period and people associated with the building. A quick check revealed 295 images for Suffolk, but no mills! Norfolk has two mills (Cley and West Winch), Essex eight and Cambridgeshire five. The photos are very good and it's easy to scroll down to the list entry to see how good (or bad) the descriptions are. When the project is completed in 2002 it will be one of the world's largest image-based websites. (M.B.)

FORMER MILLWRIGHT'S HOUSE THREATENED

A recent application by Framlingham College to demolish a modest 19th century house on their site in the town has aroused a good deal of local opposition. Research by the Framlingham Historical & Preservation Society has revealed that the timber-framed and weatherboarded house was occupied by a William Collins from the 1840's until 1871 or 1872 (he died in 1872). Collins was listed as a millwright in the 1841 census. Born at Melton, he must have been related to the well-known millwrights, Collins of Melton. The high rateable value of £12 in 1838 suggests that the site contained other buildings associated with a millwright's yard. A local belief that the house was built with timbers from Victoria post mill, which collapsed in 1842, is unlikely as evidence suggests the present house was standing in the 1830's. (M.B.)

EVENTS

S.M.G. PUBLIC MEETING: 'WHERRIES AND WINDMILLS'; SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17th at 7.30pm, at IPSWICH TOWN HALL

Wherries and windmills were among the most characteristic and attractive features of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads, both first appearing in any number in the 18th century, and proliferating in the 19th century. Our meeting will focus on their history, and the efforts made to preserve them.

Our speakers will be well known to most members. Vincent Pargeter, a professional millwright, has taken a special interest in the Broadland mills since visiting them as a boy. Not only does he own a drainage mill, but he also owns a wherry, the *Maud*, which he has rebuilt from a sunken hulk over the last 25 years. Local historian Bob Malster also explored the Broads in his boyhood, and has written two books on the area.

We look forward to a full house for what promises to be an excellent evening's entertainment.

MILLER'S TRAIL STEAM ENGINE ROAD RUN: SAT - SUN APRIL 28th-29th

This exciting venture will see up to twenty steam traction engines, road rollers and steam wagons travelling in convoy along the 23-mile Miller's Trail over the course of the weekend. On the Saturday evening there will be entertainment in the Bardwell tithe barn, with all the engines assembled around the village green.

This is a sponsored event aimed at raising the last £4,000 of the Bardwell windmill restoration appeal. If successful it will be possible for the rest of the work on the mill to follow on from completion of the first phase this summer. For further details contact Enid Wheeler on 01359 251331.

NATIONAL MILLS WEEKEND: MAY 12th -13th

As usual we will endeavour to publicise those mills open over the weekend, including Herringfleet, Stanton and Thelnetham. Look out for details nearer the time. Do let us know if your local mill will be specially open.

Other Events

East of England Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference;
Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket; June 9th

Contact the Museum for details nearer the time (01449 612229).

Local History Fair; Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket;
June 23rd-24th

Volunteers are required to man the S.M.G. stand at this event, which is always a lively and enjoyable social occasion. Please contact Peter Dolman (01359 250622) if you think you can help for a few hours during either day.

.....