

SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

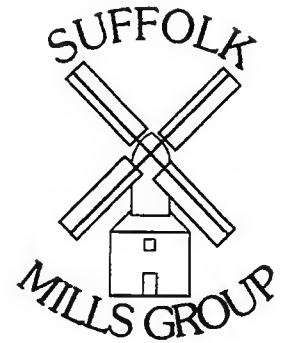
Newsletter

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As many of you will know by now, early July witnessed the sad death of Peter Dolman, at the age of 46. Peter helped to start S.M.G. in 1977, and was actively involved in nearly everything we did in the following 25 years, most of the time as secretary. With his unexpected death we have been deprived of his intimate knowledge of the history and workings of Suffolk mills, his practical ability, and his innumerable contributions to the smooth running of the Group, from organising meetings and visits to administering the membership records and checking the accounts. It is a huge blow, and S.M.G. will never be the same again. After a period of reflection, we have decided to carry on, and for the time being we have shared out the work of secretary among the other committee members.

July also saw the death of Cliff Lovett, another of our few really active members. A quiet man, Cliff went along to many of our 'work-ins', and his patient, skilled workmanship will endure and be admired for many years to come.

Much of this issue is taken up with tributes to Peter and Cliff. We have not organised any events since the A.G.M. in June, and will re-start our programme with the pre-Christmas social and the winter public meeting (see below).

Of course Peter Dolman made a huge contribution to this newsletter - who can forget all those *Vanished Mills*, so expertly described, or the write-ups of his work at Stanton post mill? I have so far resisted the temptation to produce just a thrice-yearly digest of news and events, but ultimately the content of the newsletter will depend on the amount of material I receive. Please make a special effort in the coming months to 'plug the gap' left by Peter's death, so you can continue to enjoy the range of content you have rightly come to expect.

Forthcoming events are as follows. The next issue of this newsletter is due in early February.

SMG social evening, Drinkstone Mills Saturday December 7th
SMG public meeting, Ipswich Town Hall Saturday March 1st

Mark Barnard

PETER DOLMAN (1955-2002)

One often hears the question "Where were you when you heard news of the terrorist attack on New York or the death of President Kennedy?". I can't remember these but I recall vividly and will never forget where I was when I heard the news of Peter's death. It was a tragedy not only for his family and

Suffolk mills but a national tragedy for the whole movement to preserve and record our heritage of old mills.

I regarded him as Britain's leading authority on old mills because of his knowledge and achievements in all aspects of the subject. There are a number of enthusiasts who are very good at research, or restoration, or opening their mills to visitors and producing good flour, but not all together. Peter had a vast experience and depth of knowledge of old mills from archive research to owning, restoring and working them. He was equally skilled in the record office, in the workshop making sails or a brakewheel or producing prize-winning stoneground flour.

His research was well-known and people from all over the country consulted him on mill history. His book *Windmills in Suffolk - A Contemporary Survey* was quickly sold out and is now a sought after rare book. He published a similar contemporary book on Lincolnshire windmills and contributed numerous articles on mills in this newsletter and other journals.

Peter founded Suffolk Mills Group in 1977 and was its secretary and major force in the Group until his death. In 1979 he led a group of people who formed a trust to buy and restore the Thelnetham tower mill to full working order. This was done entirely by mill enthusiasts under his leadership and first class management.

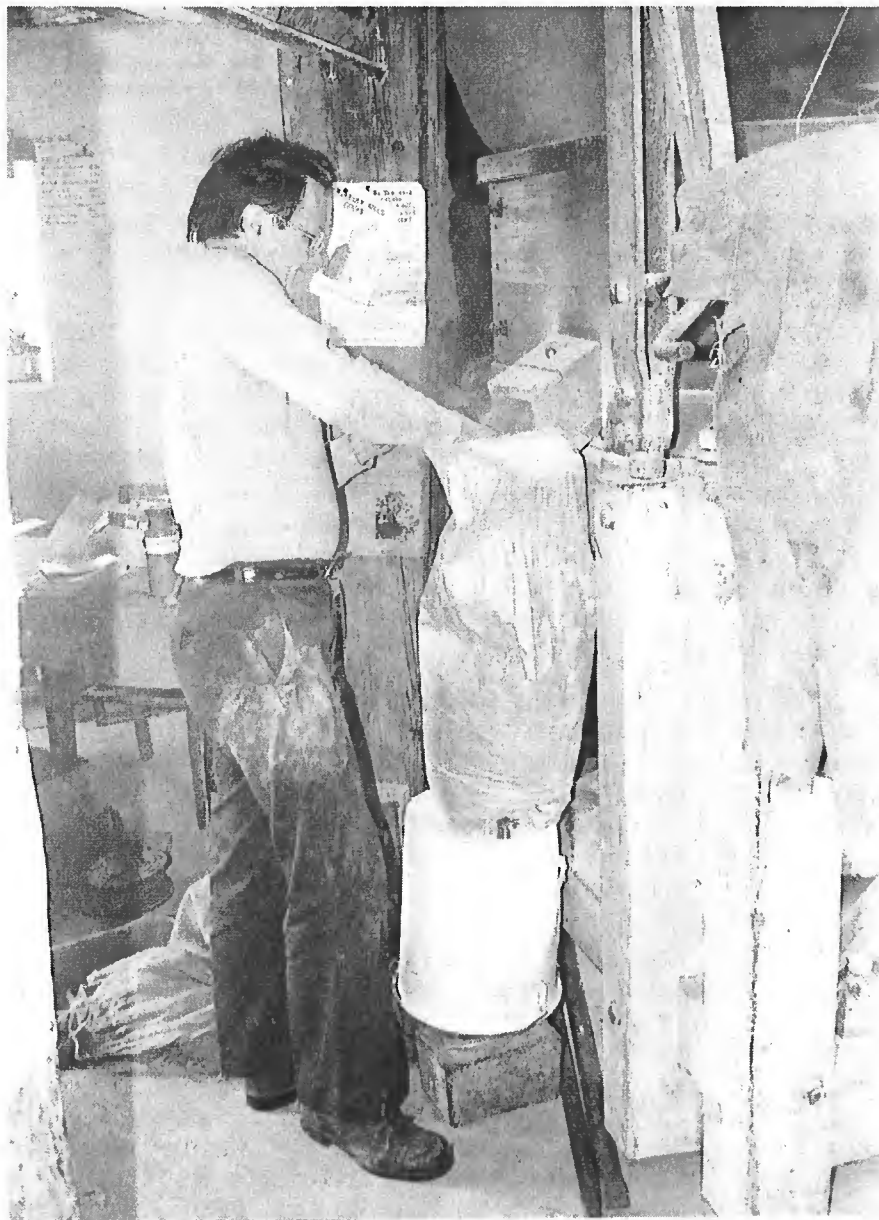
In 1987 he leased Thorington Street watermill from the Rowley Estate and carried out major repairs, returning the mill to working order. He gave up this lease in 1994 when he bought the post mill at Stanton. Here he held two week-long work-ins each year, working holidays when people from all over the country stayed there to work on the mill. This work was done to the highest standards of historical authenticity, using long-lasting quality materials and craftsmanship. I attended the last work-in there in June this year. We hoisted the second pair of sails, fitted the shutters and as it was Jubilee week we set red, white and blue bunting between the sails. Their turning in a steady breeze was a wonderful sight.

Peter had served on the Mills Section committee of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and in recognition of his work the Society awarded him their coveted Windmill Certificate in 1987. At the time of his death I was putting together some notes to form the basis of a proposal that he be awarded an MBE for his outstanding contribution to the conservation of old wind and water mills.

Peter's death was a terrible shock to us all. I had thought he was at risk from a motor accident as sometimes he drove a little too fast, or from a coronary through doing too much, but suicide - never. Why, we asked ourselves? Peter had been working too hard. He had a demanding job, a family, a mill to restore, he did research, he advised on mills, he gave lectures and as well as his mill interests he was an accomplished musician (violin and viola) and often played in quartets and orchestras. He rightly believed that a workable mill should work but he spent far too much time building up a considerable stoneground flour trade. He supplied shops and journeyed long distances to farmers' markets.

Like so many of us he overdid it and the effect on him was an insidious build-up of tiredness and depression which he was unable to recognise. The remedy was simple, he had no serious problems, the mill restoration was going extremely well. He did not even have to give up anything but merely to ease up, take a break and particularly cut back on the flour trade. He had no financial worries and could have retired in 8-10 years and then built up his trade. If only he had confided in someone. If only - if only - sad words. In the video we made of the Martlesham dig Peter's last words are "but we shall never know".

We all extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Melanie and two sons Matthew and Gregory. Peter Dolman was unique and irreplaceable: we shall not see his like again. (Chris Hullcoop)



Peter Dolman in typical pose, milling with the engine-driven stones at Thelnetham (1988)

I shall never forget the morning of Thursday July 4th when the phone rang at work with the news that Peter Dolman had been found dead at his home. The implications for his family, for Stanton mill, Suffolk mills, the SPAB... it was hard to even begin to take it in. During the course of that day, and for many weeks afterwards, I kept having to convince myself that it wasn't just a bad dream.

My first contact with Peter was by letter, after he published an article in the January 1973 edition of the *East Anglian Magazine*, listing all the Suffolk windmill remains he knew of. He was living near Bedford at the time, and it was not until the summer of that year that we first met, when I stayed with him for a few days. Even then, at only 18, he had an extraordinarily well-developed interest in mills, and was very knowledgeable. His article on the windmills of Upper and Lower Dean, published in the *Bedfordshire Magazine* in 1972, covered everything from early map references to intricate details of machinery. Peter was keen to show me as many of the local windmills as possible, and we raced round on his motor scooter. By pure chance, a few months later we bumped into each other again in Ipswich, and discovered we had both got jobs with the County Council! Peter soon acquired swifter means of transport, a succession of powerful motorcycles. A somewhat nervous pillion passenger, I remember clinging on for dear life as he demonstrated the acceleration of a 500cc Triumph up London Road hill.

Peter took advantage of the opportunity to run Herringfleet windpump, which is leased by the County Council, and his involvement helped to ensure it stayed in working order, and was regularly demonstrated to the public. He was a very practical man, equally skilled at carpentry, joinery and metalwork. If he couldn't do something himself, he would know how it should be done, and was not afraid to let others know if he thought things were going wrong. Anyone doubting the depth of Peter's understanding of mills only need examine his superb working drawings for the reconstruction of East Bridge windpump after it was blown down in 1977.

This practical ability came to the fore in the 1980's during the restoration of Thelnetham windmill, which he and four other enthusiasts (including myself) had clubbed together to buy in 1979. Peter organised much of the repair work and prepared many detailed drawings to guide it. Towards the end of the project he single-handedly made the new brakewheel, an impressive achievement in itself. After Thelnetham was completed he lived in the mill house at Thorington Street watermill, Stoke by Nayland, for seven years, and carried out a great deal of repairs for the Tendring Hall estate. Then in 1994 he purchased Stanton mill, so achieving his ambition of his own mill property. He was very proud of Stanton mill, and took great pains to ensure his repair work was historically accurate. He would have been looking forward to enjoying the reward of several years' repair work by being able to mill flour on his doorstep. How ironic that he should cut his life short just as Stanton mill was producing its first flour again, and only a few weeks after the second pair of sails had been fitted. It doesn't make sense, but then these things never do.

Peter worked hard. Too hard. He never seemed really relaxed and at ease for long. I recall when a S.M.G. party visited Holland in 1981, he became annoyed when we passed one mill after another without even stopping to take a photograph (presumably something he had never done before). We had to explain that there would be dozens of mills on the way to Amsterdam, and there simply wasn't time for them. At our visit to Saxtead mill after this year's A.G.M., as usual Peter was busy taking measurements, notes and photographs, interpreting what he was seeing and making thoughtful observations.

We have been denied the product of another 30 years of one of the country's leading authorities on old mills. We will never know what those years would have brought, but from what went before we can be certain it would have been good. (Mark Barnard)

I first met Peter at Ramsey windmill in 1975, during the second work-in of Chris Hullcoop's holding operation. Conversation soon turned to the windmilling future. It was clear



Peter Dolman at Pakenham watermill
in the early 1980's

that Peter and I both had a consuming interest in windmills, and a determination to ensure that the remaining mills had a new life and a secure future in preservation. At that time of course the commercial windmill had essentially died, with a few old millers still about. We were also interested in ambitious schemes for building new mills; certainly on that first occasion Peter and I discussed what we then called 'iron smock mills'.

Chris Hullcoop led a number of holding operation projects, and these had the important result of leaving the mills in sufficiently good state that they would survive, hopefully until such time as sympathetic ownership could be found to give them a long term future via full renovation. Peter

was heavily involved in these holding operations as one of the volunteer millwrights.

A next step was for a group of enthusiasts to band together to purchase a derelict mill, and restore it to good order. The group would undertake the work themselves, together with other enthusiasts. This would allow the mill to be repaired to a high and controlled standard, and importantly would give the volunteer millwrights control over the mill's future. The mill concerned would probably be one unlikely to be conserved otherwise, but would preferably be important molinologically.

Around this time the highly derelict Thelnetham windmill came onto the market. In late 1979 Peter, Chris Seago, Mark Barnard, Peter's father Charles and I found ourselves owners of this splendid ruin, with John Snowdon joining a little later. Gradually with the help of many supporters, and after the expenditure of many weekends of labour over a good many years, together with the famously exhausting 'work-ins' in the summer, the mill was in running order again. Peter was awarded one of the coveted SPAB Windmill Certificates for his great contribution to Thelnetham and to other mill projects.

Following the success of the Thelnetham project, in 1987 I gathered together a group to take on the Wicken smock mill. The restoration would be along similar lines to Thelnetham, being undertaken by volunteer millwrights. Peter was a valued member of the Wicken group in the early years, but eventually decided to follow his own path.

Because of the exigencies of time and work and distance I saw less of Peter and Melanie thereafter, although he and I were still involved at Thelnetham. He went on to restore Stanton mill, again with volunteer support. Sadly this excellent restoration was not to be quite completed by Peter, but he was able to grind corn there this summer by wind.

By their nature volunteer millwrights are strong-willed. The calling also leads volunteer millwrights to be demanding of the individuals around them. Peter was, to say the least, as demanding of himself as he was of others. I have fond memories of good times. (Dave Pearce)

CLIFF LOVETT (1921-2002)

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Cliff Lovett on Friday 19th July at Colchester hospital. Having had a pacemaker fitted a few weeks earlier, it was anticipated that he would enjoy many more years of active life. Regretfully, this was not to be. At the Humanist celebration of Cliff's life at Weeley crematorium on Friday 2nd August, there was a big turn-out of family members, friends, old Post Office colleagues and, of course, many from the milling fraternity. Even the weather smiled on us.

Clifford William Bert Lovett was born on 6th September 1921 in Ipswich where he grew up and spent the larger part of his life. He was educated at Northgate Grammar School for Boys before

starting work at E.R. & F. Turners, the world famous milling engineers. Unfortunately, he did not work in the milling side of the business. The major part of his career was with the Post Office, working on telecommunications, where he excelled.

I first met Cliff in 1980, at the Thelnetham mill restoration project where he played a major part and was well respected. We became close friends and worked together at Stanton post mill before both becoming partners on the Wicken smock mill restoration.

Although a man of small stature, no task was too big for Cliff. His major contribution at Wicken was, undoubtedly, the foundry work. He designed, built and operated the furnace for melting the metals. He produced the patterns, did

most of the moulding and casting all on his own. Altogether, his aluminium alloy castings saved our group thousands of pounds in £.s.d. (remember those?) and hundreds of pounds in avoirdupois (without a kilogram in sight!). The only downside of Cliff's work on mills was his insistence on using engineering tolerances on timber machinery. We are, in fact, still increasing some clearances to allow things to work.

A recent highlight was the celebration of Cliff's 80th birthday, at Wicken, last year. It was held at the village hall with a vast spread of comestibles and beverages for all his friends, family members and colleagues, both old and new. It was a day to be remembered.



Cliff Lovett with the oak finial he made for Thelnetham mill (June 1982)

Cliff was a lovely little man, a sincere and loyal friend and is greatly missed.

The closing stages of his funeral celebration included an epitaph from a headstone in St Britius' church, Brize Norton. It is very appropriate.

*My sledge and hammer lies declined,
My bellows, too, have lost their wind;
My fire's extinct, my coals decay'd
And, in the dust, my vice is laid;
My days are spent, my glass is run,
My nails are drove, my work is done.*

(Alan Wallis)

Cliff was a brilliant engineer, but most unassuming, and was the kindest of men. He made a major contribution to millwrighting in East Anglia in the past thirty years.

I first met Cliff at Ramsey windmill in 1975, during the second work-in there. At Ramsey he was doing skilled and exacting carpentry, but it was soon apparent that he had many other accomplishments. By profession he was a telecommunications engineer, and his other talents were to become important in mill restoration. For one thing he was a skilled machinist, and was able to work on components in his workshop at home in Clacton. He would make innovative modifications to equipment: a lathe in his garage was altered radically to take the heavy block of oak which in his hands became the finial for the new cap at Thelnetham mill.

Cliff's interest in metal casting brought him further to the fore as a volunteer millwright. He soon became highly skilled and experienced at non-ferrous casting, particularly aluminium alloys and bronze. This ability was partly born out of Cliff's fascination with all engineering processes. I think he had been interested in casting for many years, but the interest developed strongly after he retired in 1981. Aluminium casting is a specialised activity, and Cliff experimented until he was an expert, remarkable for an amateur.

It soon became clear that this skill could be put to valuable use in millwrighting projects, firstly at Thelnetham. It was becoming apparent that funding for mill restoration was likely to become ever more difficult. Cliff had proved that light alloy casting could be done cheaply but effectively by the 'back-yard' engineer, unlike iron founding which requires higher temperatures and costly equipment. Further there was an opportunity to lighten components by using aluminium alloy where new components were needed for old mills.

Accordingly in 1985 Cliff and I made a wooden pattern for the spider at Thelnetham mill, the original iron spider being remarkably worn. It was to be a large casting, requiring the melting of aluminium in considerably quantity. This was a particular problem, since the melt was to be achieved on a blacksmith's forge in Marguerite and Cliff's back garden, with

air draught to the fire supplied by vacuum cleaner. After some hours I wondered if we would be able to melt enough aluminium simultaneously before night came down. But succeed Cliff did, and the metal was poured after a long day. This was followed by a night of suspense while the mould cooled: would the cast be successful? Suffice it to say this first mill casting is still in place on the mill.

Cliff became a partner at Wicken corn windmill when that project was started in 1987. Many needs arose for Cliff's casting and engineering skills, and many individuals contributed to the supply of aluminium scrap which we are still working through. Patterns were made for the spider and striking levers, copied from Willingham (old photo's showed they were similar). The shutter cranks and spigots were also cast in aluminium, leading to a significant reduction in weight, important on a smock mill which is now nearly 190 years old.

For the mill interior, Cliff cast phosphor bronze bearings to replace original brasses which were worn out. Most recently the six-armed wheels for the new wire machine's brushes were cast in aluminium alloy. I had hoped that Cliff would be able to guide us in casting the hub of a new pinion wheel for the auxiliary machine drive, to replace a gear scrapped long ago, but I'm afraid time was against him. We shall cast this wheel in the new year.

I have left Cliff's greatest feat at Wicken till last: the casting of the cog segments for the brakewheel. This is a true bevel wheel with 85 teeth on a pitch circle of 7ft 5ins diameter.



Cliff Lovett (left) & Ian Preedy with one of the Wicken brakewheel cog segments (mid 2000)

It was decided to cast the cog ring in eleven segments. The size of the wheel was such that each segment weighed in excess of 28lb. The result of Cliff's brilliant casting is that the brakewheel and wallower mesh together particularly quietly, a major achievement on such large wheels.

As a final example of Cliff's contributions in the wind engineering field, his plans for a vertical axis Darrieus wind turbine must be mentioned. Cliff had detailed the design and accumulated much of the material required, and had manufactured the major castings. It would be fitting if some means were found to complete this interesting machine. (Dave Pearce)

REPORT OF 2002 A.G.M.

Owing to Peter Dolman's death, it has not been possible to produce a full account of the A.G.M. Published below is a summary of the meeting.

The 2002 A.G.M. was held on Sunday June 16th in the roundhouse of the former post mill at Earl Soham, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Vincent. 23 members were present. Chris Hullcoop welcomed everyone to the meeting, and the minutes of the 2001 A.G.M. were agreed without amendment. In the absence of Des Codd, Peter Dolman gave the treasurer's report. The year's accounts were distorted by the receipt of the bequest from the late John Allen, amounting to over £8,200. If this was ignored, income and expenditure were almost in balance. The Suffolk County Council grant towards the work at Syleham mill was the other exceptional item of income, while expenditure included over £450 on tools and equipment, including a new belt sander. There was no need for a change in subscription rates.

Mark Barnard reported on the newsletter. Three issues had appeared, with an average length of nearly 17 pages, of which nearly one third were news items. He thanked all the contributors, especially the regulars. An index to Newsletters 61-80 had been sent out in October 2001, based on work by Peter Steggall and typed by Melanie Dolman. There was scope to publish an anthology of articles from the past 25 years.

Peter Dolman gave the secretary's report. All officers and other committee members were willing to continue for another year and were duly re-elected. The meeting concluded with slides of various Suffolk mills in the news during the year.

NEWS

HERRINGFLEET - JUST TOO WINDY

We chose the wrong day for the most recent open day at Herringfleet. Although late in October, the Sundays either side of the 27th were perfect. We had misgivings when we heard that Somerleyton Hall and gardens' last open day of the year had been cancelled due to high winds. When we arrived at the field used for parking we found our direction signs blew over and we had to

tie them down! New steps have been made by the Broads Authority to take the path from the Herringfleet Hills car park down onto the grazing marshes. The path leads through a small wood which we nervously hurried through, while out on the marsh it was very hard work walking against the wind. We opened the mill but dare not let the sails turn, even on bare frames.

On a dry day the weatherboards on a smock mill look fine and waterproof. But all mill owners, millwrights, enthusiasts, architects, planners, etc should visit a smock mill under conditions of windblown rain. At Herringfleet water was blown up between the boards and into the mill, soaking cant posts, diagonals and studs. Under these conditions even weatherboards which are vertical are not watertight. On a cap or buck roof where the top boards are nearly horizontal, a waterproof seal is impossible. In the old days white lead painted canvas was often used to waterproof smock towers and cap and buck roof boards. The modern version of this is Belzona membrane which has been used to good effect at Thelnetham and Buttrum's Mill, Woodbridge, but this would be cumbersome on a whole smock tower. Double coverings with an air gap as at Sandwich and Wicken smock mills, although expensive, does keep the structure dry.

This was one of our worst days at Herringfleet. Our only visitor was Malvern Tipping, who had come to help run the mill. Probably just as well as on our return a large tree had blown down across the footpath through the wood! (CH)

CHANGE TO THE SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP SUBSCRIPTION YEAR

With the loss of our secretary, we have decided to simplify the time-consuming task of administering membership subscriptions. **From now on annual subscriptions will run from January 1st to December 31st.** To make the changeover as fair as possible, members who have paid a subscription since July 1st 2002 will not be asked for another subscription until 1st January 2004. Also, members who pay by Standing Order will be unaffected. In all other cases, membership subscriptions will be due on 1st January 2003, and renewal notices will be sent out with the next newsletter, for return to Chris Hullcoop. Reminders will be issued with the May newsletter, and anyone who hasn't paid by 1st October will have their membership cancelled. We hope this will work O.K.; it will save us a lot of time and hassle.

THE LOST MILLS OF MARTLESHAM

As a boy Richard Powling remembered his uncle telling him about a piece of curved foundation that he had come across when he built greenhouses on land he owned at Martlesham. As the land was at Mill Farm and a windmill was marked on old maps there was a good chance it was something to do with a windmill.

Some 20 years ago Richard dug some exploratory trenches and soon found a portion of the curved foundation. I recall he told me he had found the foundation of a tower mill some 40ft in diameter! This seemed far too large for the average tower mill and Peter Dolman told us that previous to the tower mill there had been a post mill on the site and what we had found was most likely to be the winding track of the post mill. Richard and I

were pretty busy at the time and vowed that if we made it to retirement we would dig further. The time eventually arrived last year and by then the land was owned by the Co-operative Society who had bought it together with the ten or so acres of Mill Farm. They gave us permission to dig and in the summer of 2001 we were there with spades, trowels and brushes. We uncovered some 25ft of track not covered by the greenhouse foundations which were put there in the late 1940's. About half of the track had been spoiled by the greenhouse development, but another 30ft was left untouched opposite the length we had dug. We determined the site centre and carefully measured across to where the track should be. We dug down and there it was!

The track is made of pieces of hard crag reinforced with bricks and some material which looks like foundry waste. The post mill disappeared about 1820 and could have had fantail winding but was more likely to have been tailpole winded, as there are no traces of any grooves caused by wheels. A tailpole winded mill needs a firm track on which to locate the base of the steps. Not only are the steps heavy but they help to brace the mill when it is headed to wind and working. While uncovering the winding track we found shutter cranks, pivots and thimbles. These were compared to others of known origin and the pivots proved to be identical to some known to have come from Whitmore's foundry at Wickham Market. It is most likely that these came from the tower mill which was demolished towards the end of the 19th century.

The mill site is close to the edge of the famous World War Two airfield where Douglas Bader once served. As the original mill house was directly underneath a runway approach its height was reduced by converting it to a bungalow in the late 1930's. Parts of the old house could still be seen and it had cellars which are not found in bungalows. Its last occupier was Mrs Shelley who tragically was murdered by a thief for a few of her modest possessions. He was never caught. As the bungalow had a large garden it was bought by developers who demolished it and built two modern 'executive' houses in its place.

A number of objects connected with the RAF were found. As well as greenhouses the smallholding also had a pig unit and part of the pig food was swill from the RAF. If any china was broken it was tossed into the swill bin together with any other small unwanted items. Thus we found pieces of RAF china, a .303 rifle bullet case and a hydraulic line nut which had little holes drilled across its corners for wires to secure it against vibration, typical of aircraft practice. Mr Nunn who worked there still has an RAF knife and fork he found in the swill.

Luke Bonwick is preparing a detailed archaeological report with drawings and photographs as part of a thesis and this will form the basis of an article in a future newsletter. Meanwhile we thought it would be nice to make a short video based loosely on the 'Time Team' approach. I am 'Baldrick' Tony Robinson link man with Linda Baker very Carenza-like in the trench; Peter Dolman looks suitably professorial in his colourful Stanton mill pullover while Brian Seward is the very erudite local historian. This was filmed by an old school friend Marcus Cook who lectures in art, photography and graphics. Now it has been edited with a

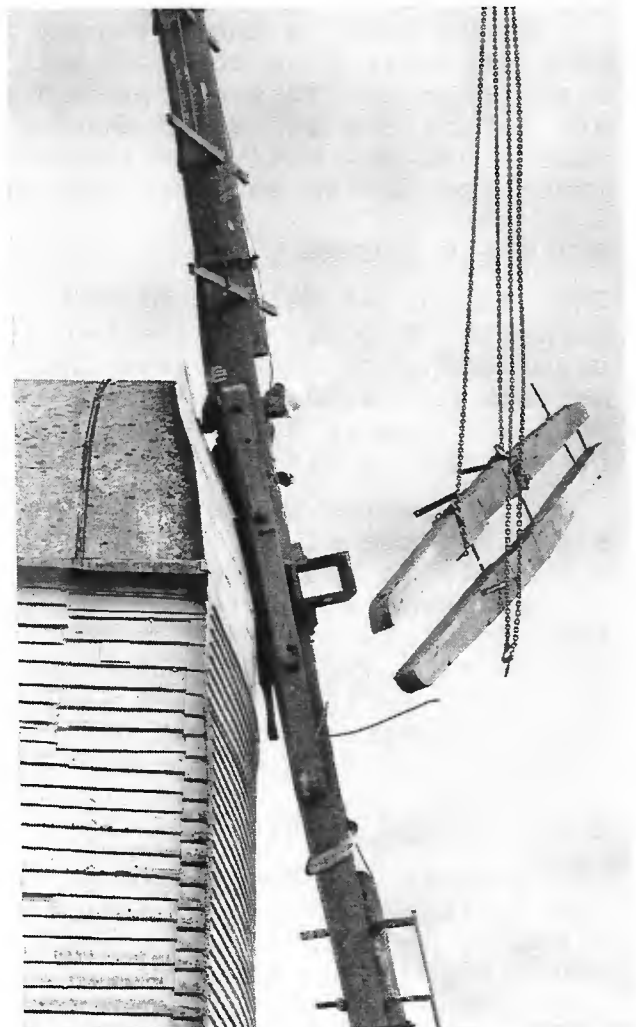
voiceover and music in appropriate places it gives a good record of the work. It is so sad though to see Peter Dolman in good health and spirits and it is ironic that his last words on the video are "but we shall never know".

We hope to do some more digging this winter to try to find traces of foundations or floors from either the post or the tower mills. We did look for them but probably did not go deep enough as often mill ground floors can be several feet below ground level or even semi-basements. The Ipswich Co-operative Society bought the site for its potential for building a supermarket but Tesco got in first with a major 24-hour opening superstore on the old airfield site. When he owned the site, Philip Powling planted some rare and unusual trees which have now come to maturity and form a little arboretum. The ten acres or so of the Mill Farm give a nice space between the intensive housing and commercial development on the airfield and the older part of the village. Let us hope it is not developed or at least the half acre of the mill site is left and not obliterated by houses. (C.H.)

DRINKSTONE MILLS UPDATE

Drinkstone post mill is now one of the best recorded mills in the country. Recent research has produced evidence pointing to its being the oldest standing mill in the country, with - amazingly - significant amounts of Tudor structural timbers intact. Its place as an outstanding and unique survivor of milling history has been confirmed by the recent decision of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (advised by English Heritage) to up-grade its listing to Grade I.

Vincent Pargeter spent the early part of 2002 recording and drawing the mill in detail, and bringing together a carefully planned repair strategy with a comprehensive report on the archaeology and history of the mill. This includes important contributions from Leigh Alston, an architectural historian specialising in timber-framed buildings, and historian Clive Paine. We are grateful to English Heritage for grant aiding the report.



Vincent Pargeter guides removal of a pair of sail clamps on October 3rd

Leigh Alston is convinced that much of the framework in the buck is earlier than the dendro-dated 1587 post. He also identifies that joints securing the quarter bars to the post show no evidence of having any alteration which suggests that they are contemporary with the post. This is very exciting news indeed. When the major repair work takes place we hope that Leigh will come back and do more detailed recording work to try and establish more about the chronology of the mill.

Finally, Clive Paine has done extensive research work in Bury Record office and found very early documentary evidence of the post mill. A survey was made of land held by the Manor of Timperleys on 25th September 1616. Whilst the mill and the strip of land it is on was not part of the survey, the adjacent land to the west and east were described. The land to the west abutted east on '...le windmill way...' and the land on the east, held by Robert Crask abutted '...on le myll hill towards the north'. Clive also found the will of Richard Crask, miller, made in 1639, in which he bequeathed to his son Thomas '...3 roods more or less which was sometimes my fathers, with a windmill thereupon built... in Drinkstone'.

Other news is that Vincent successfully removed the remaining pair of sails from the post mill on 3rd October using a giant crane from Quinto's of Ipswich. We were very glad that these were off before the storms of Sunday 27th October as they were very rotten and may well have blown off and damaged the mill structure. (Alex and Rosy Hayward)

NEW MILLS GROUPS

The Friends of Norfolk Windmills, which was established as a supporter's group for the Norfolk Windmills Trust, is to be disbanded with effect from 31st December 2002. A new group, The Norfolk Mills Group, will be established from 1st January 2003. This will cover all mills in the county, and will be similar to other local mills groups around the country.

A Yorkshire Windmill Society was formed earlier this year, promoting the study, documentation and preservation of corn windmills in the three former Ridings of Yorkshire. They have already published a *Gazetteer of Yorkshire Windmill Sites* and their secretary Alan Whitworth has written *Tyke Towers - Yorkshire's Windmills*. Alan can be contacted at 10 The Carrs, Sleights, Whitby YO21 1RR (01947 810819) or by email at alan@yorkshirewindmills.co.uk The Group also has a website (it's clearly hit the ground running!) at www.yorkshirewindmills.co.uk

JUNE WORK-IN AT STANTON

The work-in at Stanton post mill this year was a great success. The first pair of sails were lifted onto the mill last year using a crane. The stock, two clamps and two sail frames were raised and fitted in an afternoon. The second pair had been made ready and it was decided to hoist them by hand as in the old days, taking longer but more traditional and far less expensive.

One end of the stock was raised by pulling from a Tirfor winch anchored to an old apple tree. As the distance from the

canister to the ground is less than the stock length, the end of the stock has to be entered well into the canister and then the hoisting point re-positioned to allow the stock to be pulled vertically. After much heaving and grunting the striking rod hole



lined up with the rod and the stock was wedged. The clamps and sail frames were very much smaller and the much lighter old-fashioned rope pulley blocks were used. These were given to me many years ago by Bob Martin of Beccles who sadly said that most of their last work was removing sails from windmills. The old blocks worked well and it was easy to raise or lower just a little to allow bolt holes to line up. The sails had been assembled on the ground so everything fitted well when they were hoisted onto the mill. The next job was to fit the 100 or so shutters which Peter had been making through the winter months. The cast iron thimbles had been fitted to the uplongs and were ready to take the shutters which had all been numbered in Roman numerals. The working uplongs were put in place with one shutter bolt fitted to the crank of the top and bottom shutters to secure them. Then the shutters were fitted three per bay into the pivots and connected via the cranks to the working uplongs (see photograph on left). Stump and fork irons were then fitted and adjusted so that all the shutters opened and closed together. The whole job was completed in four days. As it was Jubilee week I had taken to Stanton the bunting used a few weeks earlier at Herringfleet mill; it was just long enough to span between the four sails.



There was a light breeze and the sails were soon turning against a lightly clouded blue sky, a magnificent sight (see photograph on p.15).

Attention was now turned to work to the interior. The sack hoist was dismantled and a piece of steel was carefully shaped to repair a broken flange on the pulley wheel. During the winter Peter had put the left hand pair of stones in working order and it now remained to repair and set up the stone furniture. Although a little worm eaten it was decided to repair the old furniture as so often this is entirely replaced, not really in the spirit of the repair of an old machine. The left stone case was particularly difficult as due to lack of width the inside face of the side girt had been incorporated as part of the case. By the final Sunday the stone case and furniture had been nearly completed and it was with great satisfaction we tidied up and packed away the tools with the bunting-adorned sails turning most of the time. I left my sleeping bag and some tools and provisions ready for the next work-in in early August. Sadly this was not to be. (C.H.)

OTHER MILL NEWS

There will be news about Stanton post mill (now sold), and work to the mills at Rattlesden (wind and roller), Burgh and Reydon in the next issue.

EVENTS

S.M.G. SOCIAL EVENING: SATURDAY DECEMBER 7th from 7.30pm, at DRINKSTONE MILLS

Rosy and Alex Hayward have kindly welcomed us back to the Mill Cottage at Drinkstone Mills, the venue for our pre-Christmas social in 2000. As on that occasion, we will be joined by some of the Friends of Drinkstone Mills and Meadow (FoDMaM). Liquid refreshment and some food will be provided, but please feel free to bring some modest contributions of food to help out. Also, don't forget your slides and maybe videos. We will be showing the recently-made video of the Martlesham mill dig, as well as film of Rattlesden roller mill and Bob Morse's collection of wind engines at Repps in Norfolk. All well worth seeing.

Drinkstone Mills are just south of the village of Woolpit, about half way between Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds. Parking will be in the mill yard, unless otherwise directed on the night.

S.M.G. PUBLIC MEETING: 'WATERWHEELS, ETC'; SATURDAY MARCH 1st 2003 at 7.30pm, at IPSWICH TOWN HALL

Jeff Hawksley has kindly agreed to speak at next year's winter meeting, and will describe how power is derived from waterwheels, their various uses and changing design over time. Please make a note of this date now. Further details will appear in the next newsletter.
