

SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

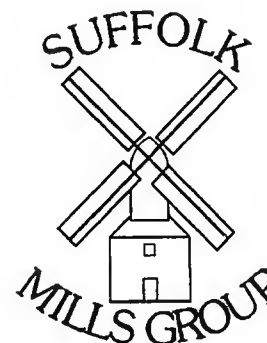
Newsletter

No. 87

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www.smg.uk.com

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As I write this, it is pouring with rain and hasn't stopped for over a day. Quite a contrast with the summer and early autumn, which were unusually dry and warm. Our visit to Rattlesden tower mill on August 10th coincided with not just the hottest day of the year, but the hottest day ever recorded in the UK. It was a relief to go inside the mill house to watch the video of the roller mill pre conversion. The Suffolk History Festival a month earlier was also blessed with fine summer weather. S.M.G. had a display in Alton watermill, and although plenty of visitors looked round, we suffered from being peripheral to the main attractions closer to the museum entrance. More recently, our visit to Marston's Mill at Icklingham proved a great success which you can read about inside. Thanks to Alex and Rosy Haward for organising it.

Our concern over access to the Suffolk mill material in Peter Dolman's collection was discussed recently with the Mills Archive Trust, who now hold all Peter's material with the exception of records of Theltenham and Stanton mills. We were up-dated on progress in cataloguing the Suffolk material, and most encouraged by a demonstration of the capabilities of the Mill Archive's website. More details of this appear in the News section.

Forthcoming events are summarised below. The next newsletter will appear in February 2004.

SMG social evening, East Bergholt
SMG public meeting, Ipswich

Saturday December 13th
Saturday February 28th

Mark Barnard

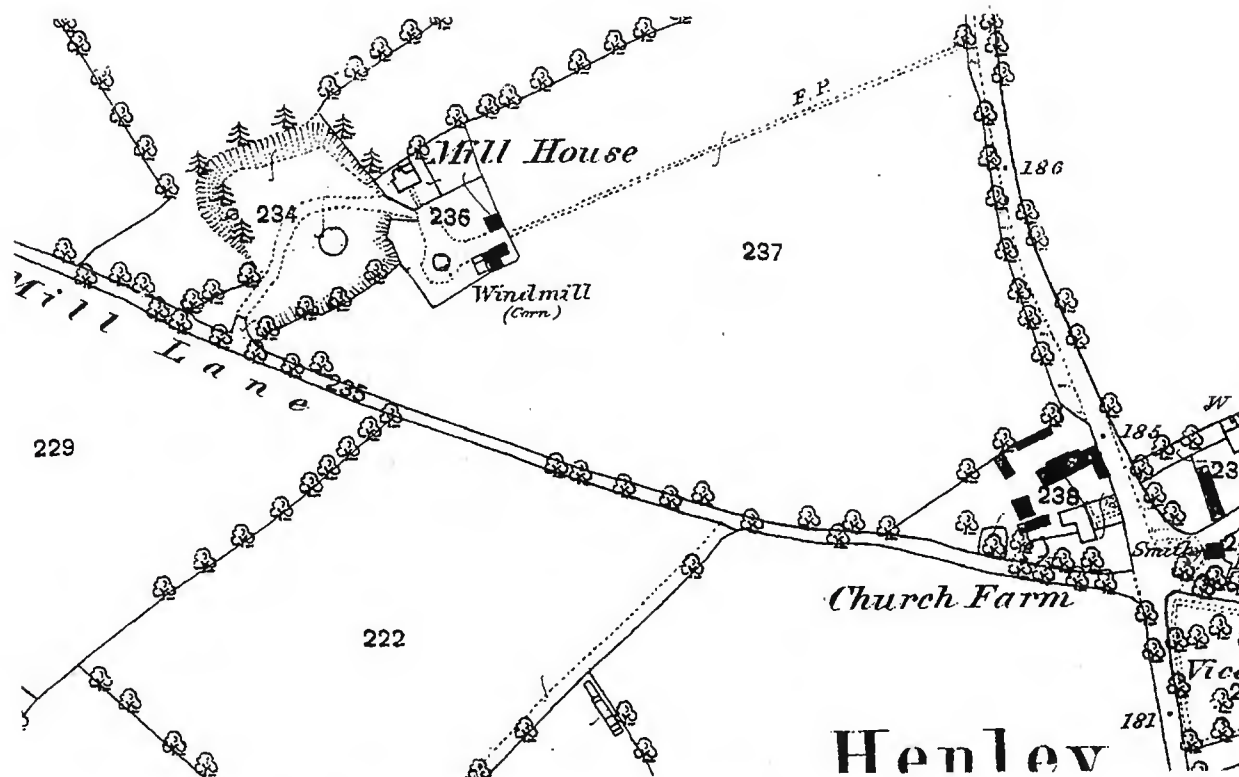
VANISHED MILLS Brian Flint

HENLEY POST MILL

This fine post mill stood to the west of the village centre at Grid Ref. 155515 until 1884 but, unfortunately, no photograph has come to light to illustrate its salient features. Information on this mill is fairly scanty but the Claydon Rural Deanery Magazine of 1884 affords us some details of its history.

Apparently in 1810 Robert Fenn of Hemingstone hired hands for building the mill from John Theobald of Claydon Hall. Certainly Greenwood's map, surveyed in 1823-4, and Bryant's, published in 1826 both show the mill.

In June 1836 it was advertised in the *Ipswich Journal* to be sold by auction and a meeting was called of the creditors of John Girling, the miller. It was handed over to John Morgan but the following year it passed to George Morgan (a relative?) of



Henley post mill as shown on the 1884 25-inch O.S. map

Bramford who spent £400 in heightening the roundhouse, fitting new patent sails and attending to three pairs of stones. By 1844 it had again changed hands, Henry Goddard becoming the new owner. By 1847 William Rodwell owned the mill and Robert Wood worked it. The next miller was a Mr. Kindred followed by Edward Charles Andrews.

By 1864 George Gower was in occupation and in April 1866 the mill was again offered for sale, described as a substantial mill drawing 3 pairs of stones and replete with excellent machinery and fixtures. It was stated (*Ipswich Journal* 7th April 1866) that immediate possession might be had and that the purchaser would have to pull down and remove the mill and roundhouse at his own expense prior to the 11th October that year. The mill survived this threat and was being worked by William Rose from 1869 until at least 1874.

Two years later Henry Hiram Southgate was miller but trade declined and the mill was almost out of use when, on 27th November 1884 at 6pm, no one knows why, it caught fire. Only the ruins of the roundhouse were left and, a few months later, these too were removed.

The mill was said to have had the usual arrangement of two pairs of stones in the head and one in the tail. It almost certainly carried a fantail. The mill house still stands on the north side of the lane between Henley and Barham and close to a line of electricity pylons.

VISIT TO MARSTON'S MILL Mark Barnard

It was with a sense of anticipation that the 16-strong S.M.G. party assembled at Marston's Mill, Icklingham in the early evening of 8th October. We were directed to the nearby village hall, a former school, where Duncan Marston, the managing director, welcomed us. He told us that the mill had been in his family since 1910 when his grandfather had acquired it (via a third party) from Parker Bros. of Mildenhall. Prior to this it had been owned by the Benstead family. Illustrations from around this time show a small brick watermill with external wheel. In 1921 the watermill building was raised in height and the first roller mill was installed, turbine-driven, with second hand machinery. The No.1 mill building was erected in 1935 by Duncan's father. This had a 4-sack plant, again with second hand machinery, mostly by Whitmore & Binyon and E R & F Turner. The mill got into the biscuit flour trade, and steadily expanded. A pneumatic system was installed as early as 1951, imported from Germany. Duncan took over from his father in the early 1970's, and by 1990 some 200-250 tons of wheat a day was being milled (about half the output of Cranfields at Ipswich).

A big change occurred in October 1990 when the mill was bought by Amylum UK, part of the pan European Amylum Group, owned by Tate & Lyle. Flour production for starch was commenced. In the mid 1990's there was a major investment in increased capacity, and Marston's is now the largest flour mill in the UK with a daily output of 1000-1100 tons. A near-continuous procession of tankers transports the flour down to a refinery at Greenwich, where starch and gluten are extracted. Much of the starch is used to produce glucose syrups and dextrose, while the gluten is used as a flour improver in baking. The range of derived products and uses is impressive. So next time you read 'monosodium glutamate' or 'modified wheat starch' on the list of ingredients of your food, it could well have come from flour made at Icklingham!



Marston's Mill, seen from the Cavenham road. The watermill building is the pitched-roof block just right of centre

We then walked back to the mill for a guided tour. The mill buildings are huge metal-clad structures, truly impressive in scale. Just before we went inside, the storage silo's were pointed out: fat ones for the wheat and surprisingly slender ones for the flour, which only hold half a day's output. Inside the mill it was very noisy and impossible to hold a normal conversation. It is all very clean and tidy with hardwood floors. Needless to say, everything from wheat handling and cleaning to loading of the flour into tankers is automatically controlled and remotely monitored by computer. The layout is less regimented than the other, older, roller mills I have seen; certainly no vast arrays of roller mills on a single floor which would once have been necessary to produce the 24 tons an hour output of the 1995 mill. This may be because double roller mills are employed, with one mill on top of another, something only made possible because of great inputs of electric power. We were told it takes 47kW to grind a ton of wheat. Pneumatics are used for all movement of products within the mill apart from wheat handling. The fluted steel rolls used for breaking open the grain last about five months, when they go to Turners of Ipswich for re-cutting. The plansifters are suspended on glass fibre rods rather than the traditional bamboo canes. The sieves are made of nylon, stretched over simple wooden trays reinforced with open steel mesh. Each tray is divided into compartments, and in each compartment is a block of plastic which moves around as the sieve is shaken, preventing it from clogging. Reassuringly low tech! The extraction rate for flour is 77%-80%. They don't mind if a little bran goes into the flour, in fact we were told this can help with the processing. Unlike a mill used for making flour for baking, the mill grinds feed wheat, and no purifiers are used.

We finished our tour inside the mill by entering a very hot room, housing a machine churning out compressed pellets of animal feed from the screenings. Finally, we were shown the exterior of the former watermill building, a white painted brick box dwarfed by the new mill buildings. This now contains two grinders for the screenings. The original mill pool was excavated in the 1990's when the new mill was being built, and very deep foundations were necessary. I think Duncan is proud that this tangible link with the past still survives - long may it do so.

Duncan had arranged for the evening to be concluded with a meal at the nearby Red Lion, a most generous gesture which was much appreciated. Sincere thanks to Duncan and his mill manager for one of the most memorable S.M.G. visits for a long time.

REPORT OF 2003 A.G.M.

The 2003 A.G.M. was held at Pakenham watermill on Sunday June 29th, by kind permission of the Suffolk Building Preservation Trust. 26 attended, with apologies from David Blackburn, Robert Bramley, Sue Burden, Roger Cooper, Joy Croxon, Peter Filby, Ed Goatcher, Alex Hayward, Bob Malster, Ivor Partridge, Don Porter, Bob Starling, Malvern Tipping, Alan Wallis and Chris Wilson.

Chris Hullcoop welcomed everyone, and Mark Barnard read out the minutes of the 2002 A.G.M. in Newsletter 84. These were taken as a true record (proposed Brian Flint, seconded Len Ball).

Mark Barnard explained that the treasurer, Des Codd, had been ill but had made a good recovery, and paid tribute to his sterling work throughout the year. The accounts presented were for a nine month period, April-December 2002, to enable future accounting years to correspond to the calendar year which was now used for collecting most subscriptions. Expenditure included some one-off items connected with the sale of Stanton mill, and purchase of some replacement power tools. Basic running costs of the Group were still adequately covered by subscription income and donations. Total funds at the end of 2002 stood at £12,737.

Brian Flint wondered how this substantial capital sum would be used. Chris Hullcoop said that the intention was to make small grants for mills whose owners are making positive progress. Photography and video production was another worthy cause, such as the videos already produced of Rattlesden roller mill, Bob Morse and his wind engines at Repps, and Herringfleet mill at work. The accounts were accepted (proposed Roy Berry, seconded Jack Clover).

Mark Barnard gave the editor's report. Two newsletters had been issued since the last A.G.M., with another imminent. The autumn 2002 issue was delayed owing to Peter Dolman's death, and it contained lengthy tributes to both Peter and also Cliff Lovett who died later in July. Peter's contributions to the newsletter will be greatly missed, and a special effort from everyone is needed to maintain our current standard. So far the response had been encouraging. Newsletter production was unchanged, although thanks to a generous donation of a more up-to-date computer, it would be possible to use MS Word in future. The Mills Archive Trust had requested use of some material from past newsletters on their website, to which we readily agreed. The editor's report was accepted (proposed Len Ball, seconded Penny Berry).

Mark Barnard reported that membership stood at 170, slightly down on the previous year. Eleven newsletters are exchanged with other groups, and a further two are complimentary.

John Snowdon had resigned from the committee, and Chris Hullcoop paid tribute to his support over many years. There were two committee vacancies which we would like filled, and Chris Hullcoop asked for anyone interested to come forward. As all the officers and other committee members were willing to stand again, the committee was re-elected en bloc (proposed Len Ball, seconded Roy Berry).

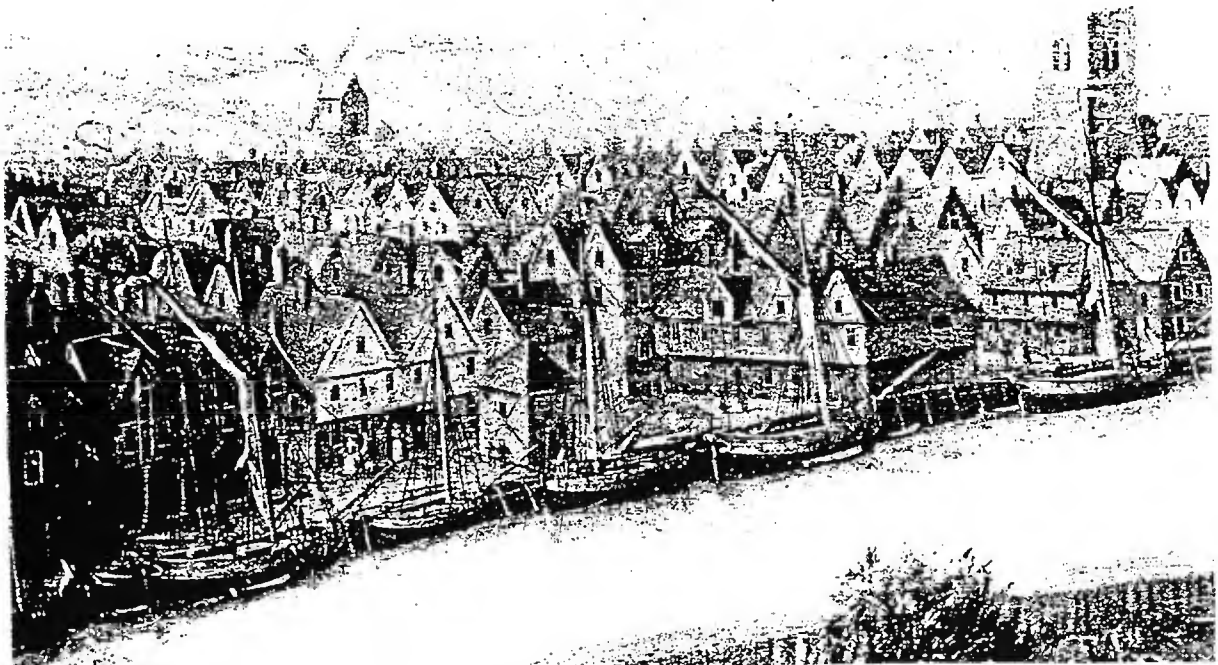
Under Any Other Business, Roy Berry gave some news from Essex. Restoration work continues at Fyfield mill; Ken Farries' widow had donated some mill books to Essex Mills Group; forthcoming events included a mill walk and a celebration of the bicentenary of Upminster mill. Assington watermill (in Suffolk) had been bought by an Essex Mills Group (and S.M.G.) member. Chris Hullcoop mentioned the public inquiry into plans to convert Stebbing watermill; after consent had been obtained on appeal the mill was sold. Ixworth mill had also been sold during the year.

The meeting concluded with a review of 2002-3 with slides. This was preceded by a minute's silence in memory of Peter Dolman and Cliff Lovett.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

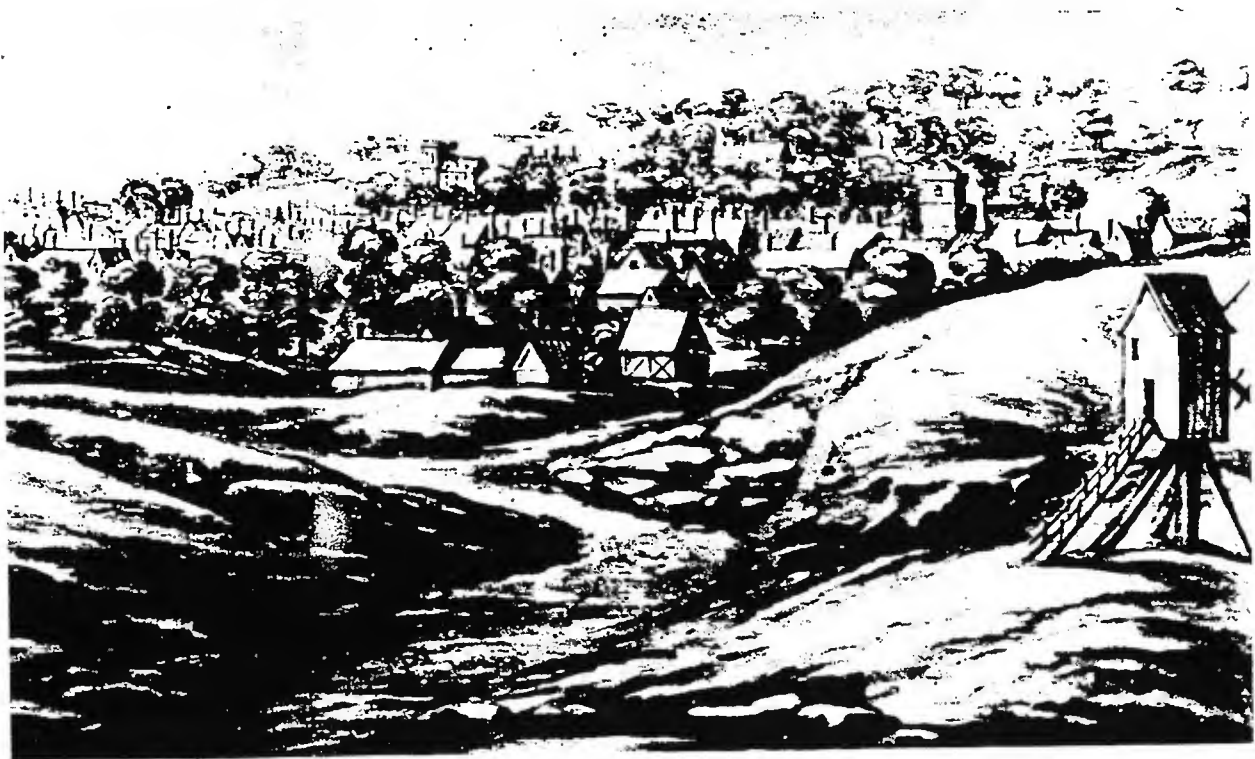
Ian Anderson of Capel St Mary writes:

Reading the February 2003 newsletter I read the article on a 17th century mill with interest as that is a period I am interested in from a family history viewpoint. I have been entrusted with pursuing the Ipswich branch of the Lindfield family extant in the 16th/17th centuries. The Lindfield's origins are mainly in West Sussex and so the Lindfield One-Name Society is particularly interested in a strand from Suffolk, whose links between Ipswich and the rest I have been attempting to find for the last ten years. The only link is a John Lindfield who was made a freeman of Ipswich to help him out when he was burned out in the Great Fire of London in 1666. I have been reading everything about Ipswich in that period and have a copy of Ogilby's 1674 detailed map of Ipswich, on which is mentioned Lingfields Hill, which is where Alexandra Park is now. On the hill is shown a windmill, whose details I became curious about and so joined the Suffolk Mills Group, having an essentially armchair interest in windmills (although I take photos of windmills wherever I have lived or holidayed). Lingfield's Hill was presumably in the ownership of the Lingfield family (the name varies in spelling between Ling/Lind/Lin/Lyndfield), Capt Lindfield being prominent in Ipswich Corporation affairs, eventually becoming one of the town's two MP's in the 1670s/80s. But I digress. In the course of my searches, I came across an article in the Proceeding of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology & History, Vol.37:1992, A Tuscan Prince in Ipswich, by Roderick Clayton.



A detail from a painting of Ipswich waterfront in 1753. The mill stands on or near the site of the one shown on Lingfield's Hill by Ogilvie (photo: Ipswich B.C.)

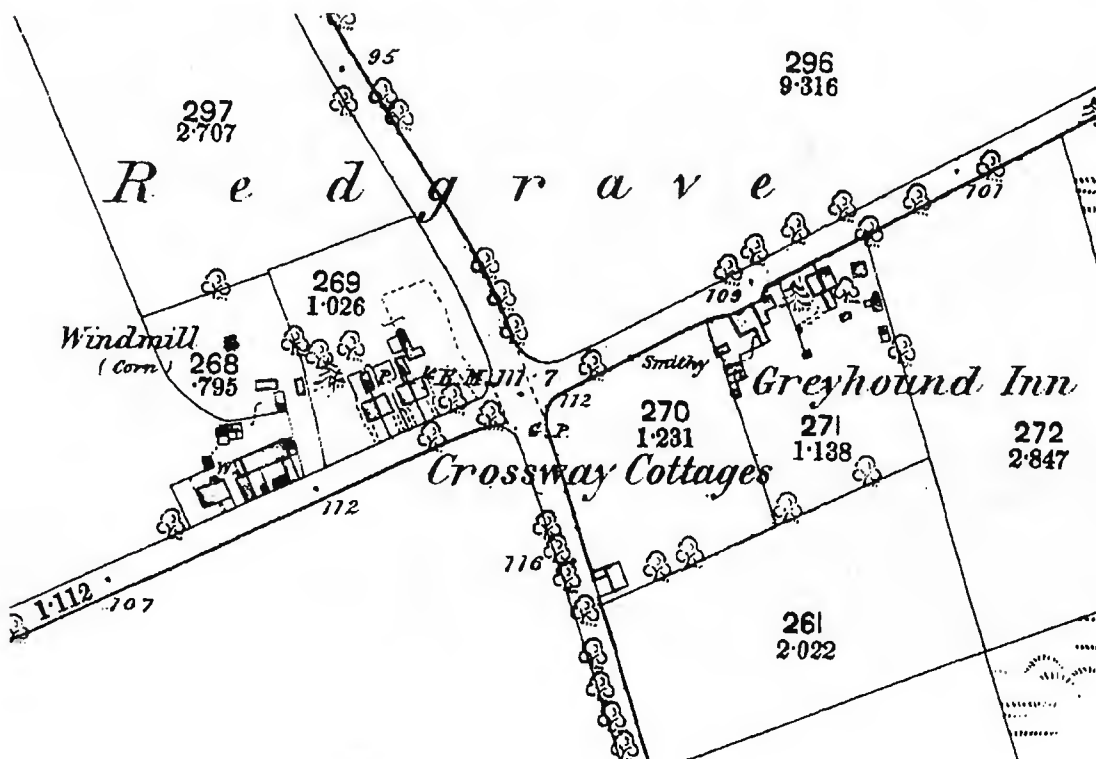
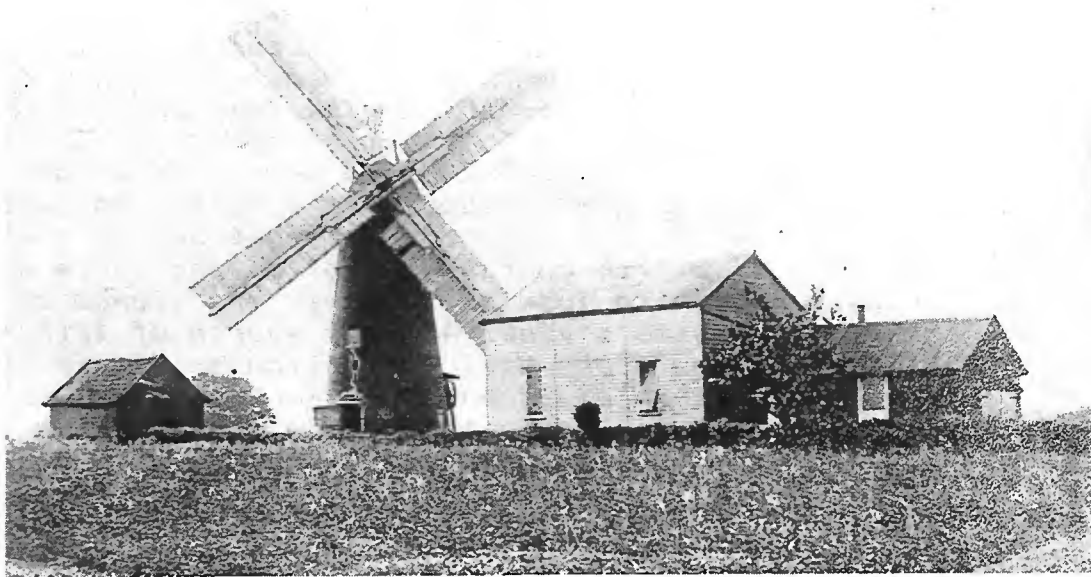
Prince Cosimo III de Medici had been sent on a tour of Europe by his father Ferdinand II, whom he succeeded as Grand Duke of Tuscany in 1670. He was getting away from marital difficulties at home and travelled via Spain, Portugal and Ireland between September 1668 and 13th June 1669 when he was in Ipswich for less than six hours. Amongst his entourage were people to write up his progress including a pictorial souvenir of the more interesting places en route. So it is that there exists a view of Ipswich taken from Lingfield's Hill looking west. This along with the diary and other pictures are in a two-volume album, over a metre long by half a metre high to be found in the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana in Florence. The Ipswich view was published in the PSIA article in black and white and shows a 4-sail post mill on a trestle on the right foreground. It is of normal post mill arrangement, the base comprising three raking support timbers around a central vertical post, with a pitched roof buck above, and back staircase (presumably moveable). The mis-spelling of Ipswich as Ipsnich is presumed to be the misinterpretation of a medieval W as N! At this time Ipswich had a series of windmills around the perimeter of the high ground to the north and east of the town. These are visible in a painting of that era in the Town Hall and at the base of a 17th century tablet on the north wall of St Mary le Tower church in Ipswich. Neither are viewed at such close range as Prince Cosimo's view. Another source of 16th/17th century mill mentions, and Stoke Mill in particular, is in The Annals Of Ipswich by Nathaniel Bacon, Town Recorder of Ipswich in the 17th century, republished in the 1880's, but it runs out in the 1650's.



Part of Prince Cosimo's view of Ipswich in 1669
(photo: Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, Florence)

MILLS ON THE MAP

A new feature in which we publish a photograph of a bygone Suffolk mill, together with an extract from an early map showing the same mill. We start with Redgrave tower mill in north Suffolk, which was gutted by fire in 1923. The base survived but was later cleared away. The map (1886 O.S. 25-inch survey, not reproduced to scale) shows the mill standing back from the road, amid a number of small outbuildings, two of which must be those shown on the photograph.



NEWS

SUFFOLK MILLS ARCHIVE

An important part of the work of S.M.G. since we started in 1977 has been the assembly of a comprehensive archive of information and images of Suffolk mills, millers and millwrights. These records exist in a number of personal collections, to which the Group has access when required. It would not be an understatement to say that the jewel in the S.M.G. archive crown is the collection of Peter Dolman. He used to copy many old photographs, and carried out enormous amounts of work in the field and record office alike on Suffolk mills.

Following Peter's tragic death last year, his mill collection has been conveyed to the Mills Archive Trust. This is an educational charity, established as a public repository for all records of UK mills and milling, with the twin aims of safeguarding material and making it freely available to the public. With the help of a £50,000 grant from the HLF, the Mills Archive has started cataloguing and scanning material from a total of over 50 collections, making the Suffolk material in Peter Dolman's collection one of their priorities. It has moved into premises in the centre of Reading (Watlington House, Watlington Street, Reading RG1 4RJ).

The Archive's main point of access is through its website, www.millsarchive.com. This was launched in mid October 2003 and is most impressive. Initially there are some 7500 records on the site, including 900 from Peter's collection, 1300 images from the Rex Wailes Collection held by the National Monuments Record, and 400 from the Donald Muggerridge Collection held at the University of Kent. It is possible to download small images at a good resolution; high resolution images are available on request. The website has a national mill index, a people index (ideal for family historians) and an index of key words. Together they allow integrated searches for information, written or pictorial, on any mill, or the people associated with it. You can call up a gallery of mini photographs, a location map, and even lists of other mills within a given radius. Now that the website is live, additional material will be added to it on a regular basis.

There is no doubt that the Mills Archive website is going to transform access to mill records, not just for Suffolk but for the whole country. Members are urged to browse through the site and discover its potential (internet access is available free at Suffolk libraries and record offices). (M.B.)

MEDIEVAL WINDMILL SITE EXCAVATED

Back in 1998 a weekend archaeological dig was held at Priory Farm, Preston St Mary, including an investigation of the site of a smock mill which stood until the late 19th century (see Newsletter 72). About 85m from the smock mill site part of a circular structure was discovered, thought to date from the 12th-13th century, although its function was unclear. In August this year a Local Heritage Initiative lottery grant funded further excavation work. This revealed that the circular structure was the site of a sunk post mill dating perhaps from the early 13th

century. Around a large central post hole was a circle of shallow post holes which probably formed the revetment of the mound. Outside this, a compacted concentric surface was identified, consistent with a winding track. It is thought the mill stood in a small enclosure, within an area bounded by ditches which could have been a linear green.

This is the first medieval post mill to be excavated in the county, and has parallels with the one excavated at Boreham airfield, Essex in 1996. The Preston St Mary dig will be written up by Stuart Boulter of the County Council's Archaeological Unit in 2004. (M.B.)

BABERGH WIN SPROUGHTON MILL APPEAL

Yet another chapter in the long-running saga of Sproughton mill was concluded in August when the owner's appeal against Babergh District Council's claim for the cost of urgent works was dismissed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport. The work in question involved taking down and rebuilding one corner of the mill, on a new foundation, carried out in 1996, and the continued use of scaffolding for temporary support. The Secretary of State agreed that the work was urgently necessary, and that the action taken was the minimum required to ensure the preservation of the mill building. The total sum claimed by the Council is over £63,000. Unfortunately, however, there seems little immediate prospect of repair or conversion work to secure the mill's long-term future. (M.B.)

WORK AT BURGH MILL

Now that the new roof on the Burgh mill tower is nearly complete, some reaction from local residents has filtered back to me. People in Grundisburgh have thought it too shiny and don't appreciate that the surface of the aluminium will soon oxidise and the shine will go. The weather this Spring, summer and autumn has been miraculous and I have not once been held up by wet weather. Tasks put aside for wet days had to be done on fine days as the wet days never came! Now we need wet days to take the shine away from the roof and as I have told people with a building material and architectural status name-drop, 'It will grey over and look like lead on a cathedral roof'.

In the design of the compound onion shape of the roof I had to cast my mind back over 40 years to remember with a shudder geometry, trigonometry, pie and jolly old sines, cosines and tangents! Now Cliff Lovett's splendid acorn finial was covered in flashband for its brief duty atop Bardwell mill. Trying to build freedom of maintenance into Burgh, this was not really good enough and it was decided to cover the finial with aluminium. A dozen strips of aluminium fitted vertically were required, but with their curved edges constantly changing to accommodate the acorn shape. After some success with elementary geometry and trigonometry I got carried away and thought that differential or integral calculus would help here. It probably would but on looking at a textbook it appeared to be written in Greek! While I was pondering this a young scaffolder on the site showed some interest and I told him of the problem and mentioned calculus. 'I

can do that' he said and proceeded to speak and write in Greek. I quickly gave up the idea as too many of my brain cells have passed on! So Cliff's fine acorn was marked with horizontal rings every inch and the diameters measured. From these, with the help of good old pie, the dimensions of the strips were calculated and a pattern made and the dozen or so pieces were cut out of the soft 1.5mm thick aluminium sheet.

At this point I remembered the tradition of putting a coin at the very top of a finial, one usually dated for that year. Indeed I had removed the coin placed on the finial when it was fitted to Bardwell in 1979. I mentioned this to Edward Creasy who as proprietor should be the one to ceremonially place a coin. He had a lucky millennium silver dollar, a fine coin depicting an American indian. It had already proved its worth as Mr Creasy had been in the World Trade Center towers in New York not long before their destruction but fortunately not on that day. We had thought of drilling a hole through the coin so it could be nailed on but then had reservations. Should George Bush had heard of this disfacement he might have invaded! So the coin was placed with three nails around the edge and the ceremony duly photographed.

The finial was then covered with the shaped aluminium strips and the joins filled with cover strips, all sealed in well with Sikaflex. The finial then had to be hoisted to the top using a pulley fixed to a small pylon made of scrap timber located well above the final position of the finial. A rope was tied to the finial and with a few heaves it was soon resting on top of the circular wooden plate, the underside of which locates the tops of the 13 full length ribs. A dozen wood screws hold the finial to the wooden plate. The bottom six inches of the finial are visually part of the roof and the tops of the 13 highest aluminium panels all attach to it, so there is no danger of it falling off.

As well as decoration, a finial provides a strong and safe point of attachment for a ladder. In any repair work, future



Chris Hullcoop poses beside the aluminium-clad finial



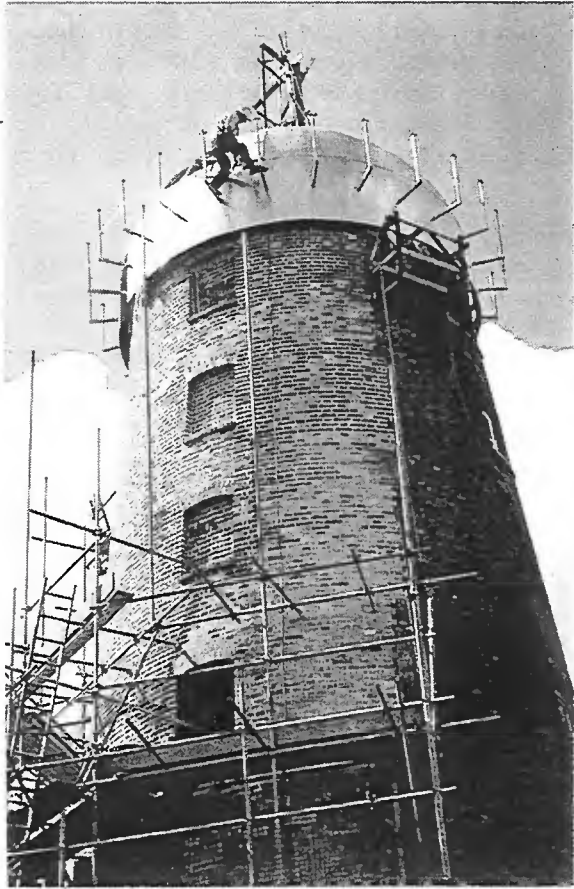
Fitting the lowest tier of aluminium sheets

affordable maintenance has to be thought of, so when the laminated roof ribs were made the two strings of the special curved ladder were made at the same time. Treads were soon fitted and now this ladder follows the curve of the roof and is easy to put in place, allowing safe access to any part of the roof.

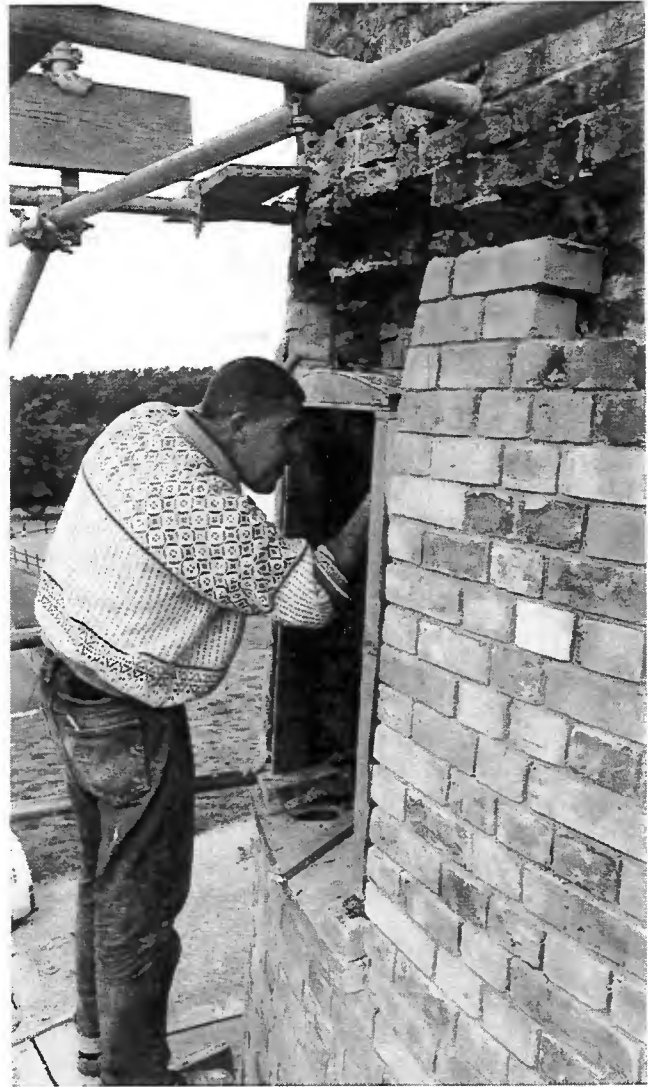
Most of the summer was taken up with fitting the 93 aluminium sheets needed to cover the dome. For the lowest sheets I was pleased to be able to work from a cradle which was always done in the old days. It was not dangerous, the ropes were 2000 kilo breaking strain and I always wore a harness with a lanyard attached separately from the cradle. Now the work is finished the cradle is in the barn where it serves as a frame to dry out horse blankets.

Aluminium nails and bolts have to be used and again I was taken back 40 years to consider chemistry and the Periodic Table of the elements. I had conflicting advice on whether to use stainless steel or aluminium fixings on the overlap. Stainless bolts would be smaller, stronger and cheap; aluminium bolts would have to be larger, would not be as strong and be expensive. I consulted metallurgists on the possibility of electrolytic corrosion caused by dissimilar materials. The classic mistake is to fit aluminium sheet with copper nails. Both materials on their own have fine corrosion resistance, but placed together an electrolytic effect causes disastrous corrosion. As a major greenhouse manufacturer always used aluminium bolts I chose these even though the fixings supplier had to order them specially. I noted they were made in France which reminded me of the large stainless steel coach screws for Stanton post mill which were sent from Ohio!

Once the roof was watertight I could concentrate on the gallery. Armour Engineering had made the stanchions, handrail posts and walkway and I had hoped to ask them to make up the remaining parts. Unfortunately the finances could not stretch to this and I made them myself, a long and laborious process. All



Above: Work on the second tier of roof sheets. Note section of repaired brickwork.
Right: Ray Hearn prepares to rebuild a window arch.



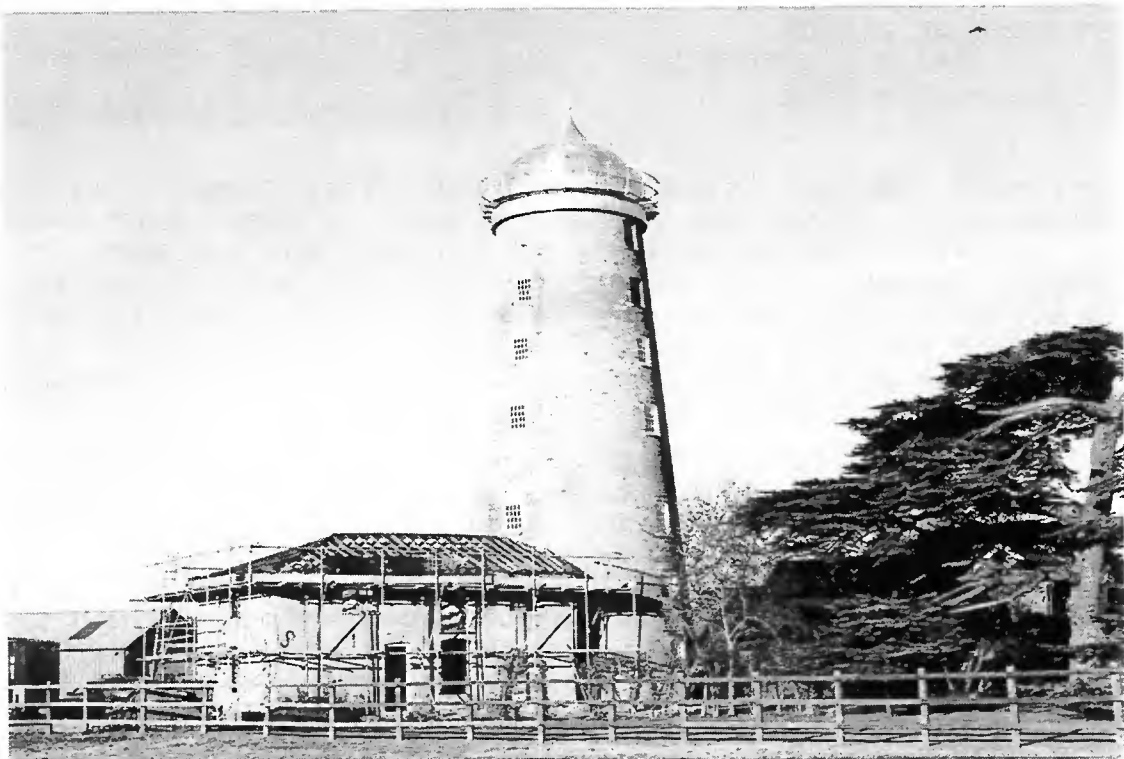
the external ironwork is galvanised and fitted together with stainless steel bolts. The walkway is made of steel fire escape tread material which is very strong and safe and I'm sure if everyone in Burgh climbed onto it and did the Hokey Cokey it would not collapse! The doorway leading onto the gallery is small, under 2ft wide and only 5ft 3ins high. Anything larger would have looked out of place, but it's very easy for someone over 6ft tall to pass through.

While the roof was being built Chapman & Pleasance's men Ray and Mervyn Hearn worked away on the brickwork, rebuilding arches and replacing large areas of the Suffolk white facing bricks. For cutting out individual bad bricks and removing old mortar prior to pointing they used special diamond grit edged mortar rakes, ideal for conservation work as in the right hands they don't damage bricks. Around 7000 bricks were replaced, and some 20 tons of brick rubble was carted away. The brothers also fitted 14 new windows with removable sashes, made by Ashbocking Joinery to Mark Barnard's specification. Mervyn specialises in woodwork and Ray in bricks and together they make a splendid team of craftsmen. Very modest, they had not thought of signing their work so as we

had found bricks with dates and initials from the time of building, we thought their initials and date should be recorded too. For ease of cutting I tried to persuade them to change their names to Ian and Ivan Ivanovich, but they were reluctant and I had to cut out the more tricky letters! They have now started work on the formidable task of restoring the attached granary, a spectacle of neglect and decay.

A very important but scarcely seen part of the new roof are its eight holding down bolts. As originally fitted four had their lower ends located in the ends of the dust floor beams and four in elm plates set in the brickwork. The nuts were totally rust welded on and had to be cut off. The wrought iron bolts were in good condition and I was able to cut by hand new threads on the slightly reduced bolts. They are now back in place with the lower ends set in oak rather than elm plates. Even without the bolts the wind would be unlikely to blow the roof off as it is of aerodynamic shape and not like the side of a barn or house. I would not like to risk it though and it would be embarrassing if one morning the roof was found in one of the horse paddocks.

Another small but vital detail was the lightning conductor. Originally this was set on a 12ft long piece of pitch pine, formerly part of a sail whip. The air terminal was an intricate copper casting with a large central spike and three others at 45°. These intricate air terminations are decorative rather than functional and today the very top of the conductor is aluminium but made to the British Standard specification in the handbook on conductors published by Furse of Nottingham, the leading supplier of conductor components.



Burgh mill tower and granary, 28th November 2003

Once all the outside work had been completed on the roof, the segments of the cast iron curb plates could be replaced in their correct positions on the woodwork. They fitted well despite some of the segments being in several pieces and only two cogs out of 224 are missing. The wrought iron bands covering the inner faces of the upper and lower wooden curb segments were refitted using over 400 countersunk wood screws.

Through deepest winter Ray and Mervyn Hearn will repair the floors and I will do a little work together with Mark Barnard on the museum exhibit on the first floor.

I have to admit it has been hard work, especially on some of those very hot record breaking summer days and I have ascended the tower so many times I reckon I have climbed Everest twice. Despite all this though it has been a privilege to build such a landmark. (C.H.)

FRAMSDEN MILL REPAINTED

Some much needed maintenance work was carried out at Framsdén post mill during the late summer. The buck weatherboarding was repaired, and work also done to the sails and the roundhouse doors. The mill was then repainted with white lead paint, and the felted buck roof coated with Aquaseal. The mill has certainly responded well and now looks very smart. The work was grant-aided by Mid Suffolk District Council.

SUFFOLK ROLLER MILL NEWS

We understand that a planning application is about to be submitted for the redevelopment of the Cranfield's roller mill site in Ipswich. Some of the buildings will be retained.

Apart from Marston's Mill at Icklingham, the only other operational roller mill in Suffolk is Marriage's at Felixstowe Dock. However, its days are numbered. Application has recently been made by Hutchison Ports (UK) Ltd for the redevelopment of the Landguard container terminal together with the original dock basin and surrounding buildings (including the mill). This is the only area left for the container port to expand, so it is likely to happen sooner or later, probably before the mill celebrates its 100th birthday in 2007. S.M.G. has visited the mill on two occasions, and we will try to see inside again while it is still working. (M.B.)

WINDMILLS CALENDAR

Yorkshire Windmill Society has produced an English Windmills calendar for 2004. It is A4 size, on gloss paper with 12 monochrome illustrations. To order send a cheque for £6.50 made payable to Culva House Publications to Alan Whitworth, Linden, 10 The Carrs, Sleights, Whitby YO21 1RR.

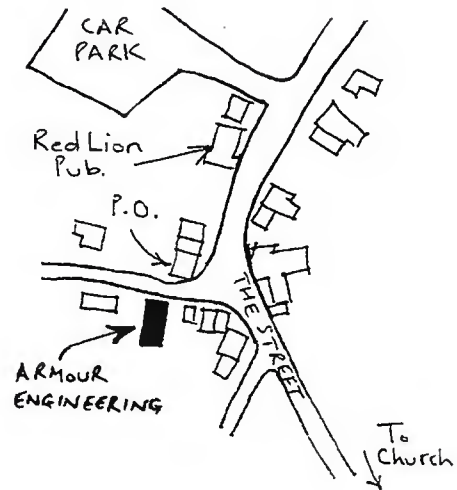
POST MILL NEWS

Good news, bad news. Repair work has started at Windmill Hill mill, Hurstmonceux, East Sussex with the temporary removal of the very decayed buck. The sad news is that the open trestle post mill at Chillenden, Kent was blown down on 26th November.

EVENTS

S.M.G. SOCIAL EVENING:
SATURDAY DECEMBER 13th, from 7.30pm,
at ARMOUR ENGINEERING, EAST BERGHOLT

For this year's social Chris Armour has invited us to return to Armour Engineering's workshop, the venue for our pre-Christmas social in 2001. We plan to show some videos as well as slides. Bring a contribution of food and/or drink, and of course some slides of your own. The workshop is in the village centre (see map). A torch is advised as the car park behind the pub is unlit.



S.M.G. PUBLIC MEETING: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28th 2004 at 7.30pm

Our public meeting will be on the theme of millers; more details in the next newsletter.

100 YEARS AGO ...

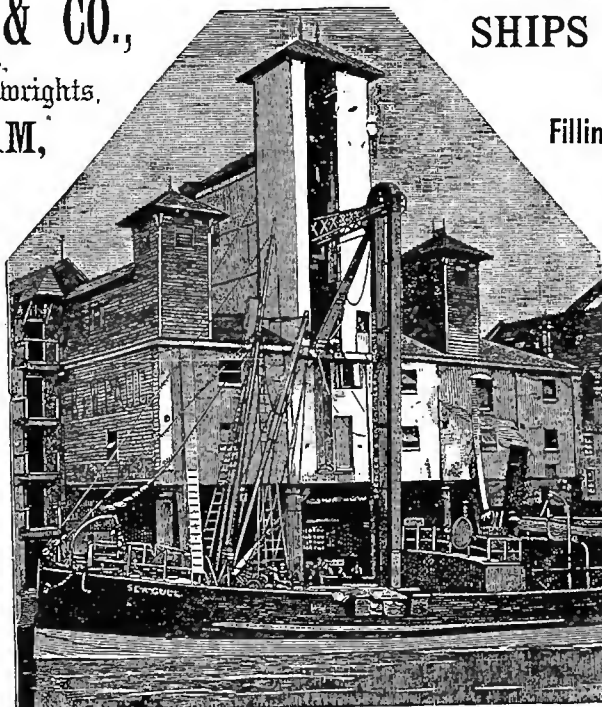
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