

SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

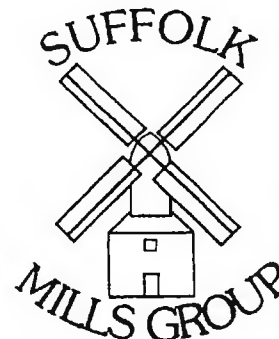
Newsletter

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As usual the summer months have passed very quickly and by the time you read this it will be less than four weeks to Christmas and the end of another year. Perhaps the most positive event of 2006 was the publication of the new edition of the Suffolk mills tourism leaflet. We contributed £500 to this, to ensure that the 10,000 printed would continue to be available free of charge, and to enable us to use it to help publicise the Group as well as Suffolk's mills. A copy of the leaflet is enclosed with this newsletter. We have also refreshed the S.M.G. website, although a lot more material could be placed on it, and distributed recruiting posters to many of the mills regularly open to the public.

We sincerely hope that all this will result in a steady stream of new members, to halt the slow decline in our numbers. Maybe we will even get some volunteers for our committee, although after we only just avoided a single figure attendance at the A.G.M., I won't be holding my breath!

I would like to make a plea for contributions for the newsletter, as my editorial folder is starting to thin once again. Even small items of news are welcome. You can email me at mark.barnard@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Below is the events diary for the forthcoming weeks. There will be another newsletter before our meeting in March.

S.M.G. social evening, Ipswich	Saturday December 16th
S.M.G. public meeting, Ipswich	Saturday March 3rd
SPAB Mills Section meeting, London	Saturday March 10th

Mark Barnard

REPORT OF 2006 A.G.M.

The 2006 A.G.M. was held in Woodbridge tide mill on Sunday July 16th, by kind permission of the Tide Mill Trust. 10 attended, with apologies from Chris Armour, Christine and Sue Burden, Peter Filby, Linda Grixti and Chris Wilson. After a welcome from Chris Hullcoop, Mark Barnard read the minutes of the last A.G.M. which were accepted as a true record.

Treasurer Des Codd introduced the accounts. The situation was a healthy one, with a deficit of only £360 even after one-off contributions to the mills tourism leaflet and Stanton mill totalling £900. One or two large commitments would be paid soon. These included £1000 towards the Drinkstone post mill project to cover the engagement of Vincent Pargeter. This was a way of influencing the quality of the work, and Chris Hullcoop considered it to be money well spent. Another mill we have helped

is Stansfield, where the contribution would be up to £500. Chris Hullcoop outlined the work he was undertaking there. It was agreed to endorse financial support for these two mills (proposed Bob Malster, seconded Dominic Grixti).

Mark Barnard gave a short report on the newsletter and mills leaflet. He thanked contributors to the newsletter but expressed disappointment that so little is heard from members about their own mills, such as Bardwell. Improvements to the newsletter, such as news coverage from neighbouring counties, would depend on input from others. The compilation of the newsletter has been aided considerably by the large archive now at the editor's disposal. The mills tourism leaflet had just been printed and copies were available at the meeting. Chris Hullcoop thanked Mark Barnard and said the newsletters were an important archive. Ivor Partridge proposed a vote of thanks. Piers Hartley asked if the Mills Archive has a set of newsletters, and if not should we send them one? Chris Hullcoop said this was a good idea. Dominic Grixti asked about emailing newsletters. Mark Barnard said this was impractical for the newsletter but some information could be communicated in this way.

Membership of the Group stood at 158 with complimentary newsletters sent to nine groups on an exchange basis and to the SPAB Mills Section and the Suffolk Record Office at Ipswich. Membership was in slow decline, from 170 in 2001 and 166 in 2004. It was hoped the new leaflet would help with recruiting. The Group holds three archives (H.O. Clark, Tom Paisley and Brian Flint) together with copies of Suffolk mill notes by Peter Dolman and H.E.S. Simmons. Our website content needs to be expanded, but it does generate responses, usually from people with family history enquiries or wanting articles from past newsletters. Des Codd asked about progress in obtaining the photo albums of Suffolk mills compiled by Peter Dolman. These had still not been forthcoming, but Chris Hullcoop said we have done the best we can in getting Suffolk material from the Mills Archive Trust.

The Committee members were all willing to serve another year and were re-elected en bloc (proposed Ivor Partridge, seconded Brian Flint).

The meeting then heard from Fred Reynolds on the plans for the tide mill, after which Chris Hullcoop reported on mills in the news during 2005-6 before drawing proceedings to a close.

LIFE AT THE MILL Joy Croxon

The Miller

*Blow wind blow!
And go mill go!
That the miller may grind his corn
And the Baker may bake it
And bring us a loaf in the morn.
(Nursery rhyme c. 1812)*

The mill was an essential part of the village economy and was particularly so in our beloved county of Suffolk. Most villages

had their own mill and many had more than one. What did this idyllic scene bring to the miller and his family? Unfortunately hard work, and often misery, but if all went well and there was reliable windpower, the miller could pray for good milling days, enabling him to grind his flour and produce that loaf of bread!

The sails were therefore an integral part of the working mill to enable machinery to work, but in the early days they were often a liability causing accidents and many fatalities.

Children were often involved, as these picturesque mill sails were a delight to them as they played close by, and many would chant rhymes as they watched the turning sails. An example of a rhyme was: 'father, mother, sister, brother all go round but can't reach each other'.

Often the earlier cloth sails on post mills swung dangerously close to the ground. There were fatalities in Suffolk and here are just a few.

1. The grandfather of Mr Cole of Peasenhall shortened the sails of his post mill after a little girl was struck and killed.
2. A Mr James Dykes of Brandeston mill (a brother of Mr Edward Dykes of Blaxhall) was also struck and killed as he stepped from the roundhouse loading door in 1888. This was also called Dykes Mill.
3. Blaxhall also had its fair share of accidents, showing how dangerous the workplace was at that time. In 1809 Daniel Sawyer was playing outside Blaxhall mill where his father William worked when he was struck by one of the sails resulting in a fractured skull, and he died the following day. Blaxhall mill itself was burnt down in 1883, never to be rebuilt; the miller Edward Dykes survived, as did his wife and daughter. He moved to Halesworth and became a baker!

Many accidents occurred, often with machinery, but the elements such as storms and bad weather also caused havoc and injury.

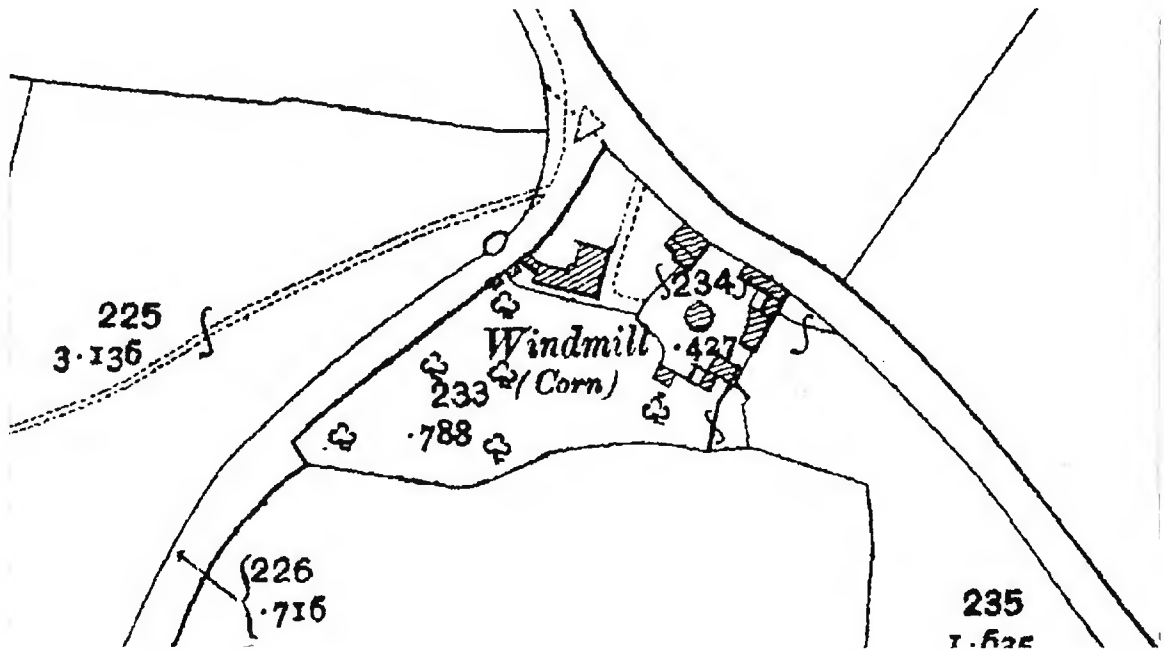
Mill sails could also prove useful in some ways. Edmund Samuel Webster of Framsdon mill had a son Samuel who owned Debenham mill just a few miles away. Father and son got so used to observing each other's mill sails during the course of the day that they developed a simple method of signalling.

Signalling in Sussex meant something else. A Sussex miller was in league with smugglers and he allowed his mill to be used as a store house for smuggled goods. By setting his sails at a certain position such as a St Andrew's Cross, he could warn smugglers not to land their cargo whenever there were revenue officers about.

If anyone has details of accidents or incidents, maybe in their own families, could they let me know as I am compiling stories of millers and their families, history of mills, etc. Would anyone be interested in the Gipping valley watermills as a project as it would be fascinating to have their history with photographs, pictures, etc? Contact me at Walnut Tree Cottage, Barking, Ipswich IP6 8HP (01449 720665).

MILLS ON THE MAP

This fine grouping of mill house, windmill, steam mill and various outbuildings, stood at a junction of two minor roads in the village of Cotton in the centre of the county. The buildings show equally well on the early photograph reproduced below, as on the extract of the 1904 25-inch map (not to scale). The sails were said to sweep low enough to hit a cat! The mill was pulled down c.1918, by which time it was in a bad condition.



ELMSETT MILL FOR SALE Bob Paterson

Q. When is a post mill not a post mill? A. When it's at Elmsett.

Are my eyes deceiving me? Is this an optical illusion or someone's joke of what a post mill should look like if built purely to be a house? Who knows, but if you fancy spending £300,000 on a complete 'rebuild' and waking up in the morning at the weekend with your kitchen wall being used for football practice by all your brand new neighbours, this is ideal.

'Aimed at Londoners wanting escape from the rat race' the estate agents openly declared. This 'rebuild' is being marketed as a quirky and eccentric property. No kidding. The only nearly original thing about the mill is the print of what she used to



look like in working order c.1905 (see previous page). Even the location is not original. The red brick roundhouse that survived the 1930 demolition was pulled down (it wasn't listed) and rebuilt several yards away in order to make way for Barratt home-like rabbit warrens and a ghastly bungalow that resembles a doctor's practice and that looks from afar as if it's part of the new roundhouse.

Ladbrook's Mill had a tall and slender, but big, buck of typical Suffolk proportions. The roundhouse was single storied and built of red brick. It ceased work around 1925 and the roundhouse became part of a modern power mill complex until this year when the whole site was flattened and rebuilt by property developers in this sleepy Suffolk village between Ipswich and Hadleigh.

One September morning, Lucy and I masqueraded ourselves as potentially interested buyers - purely out of curiosity to see what it looked like inside. On entering the spanking new original-ish looking roundhouse you have an entrance hall with a toilet/shower on your left and immediately ahead a kitchen/eating/family area. The builders have maintained the piers as a feature but also created a dividing wall of square glass bricks. These individual bricks are supposed to be expensive - and a collector's item - allegedly. The main post of the buck has been replaced by a central spiral iron staircase taking you up into the hmmm buck. The 'buck' is made of plastic 'wood'. It is simply too fat and short compared to the slender original, but miraculously gives birth to three bedrooms, one of which is en suite. The top floor has loft space with the red tiled pent roof above. From here you get pretty much the only decent view from the property over towards Whatfield airfield.

The winch-like protrusion from the bungalow side of the mill could be misconstrued as a kind of sack hoist contraption - but actually is a winch so that the incumbents could get their beds and furniture into the property. A 'Juliette' balcony has been incorporated in the 'buck'. A fellow S.M.G. committee member who shall remain nameless - equally curious about this monstrosity - happened to walk into the estate agents in Woodbridge one afternoon, claiming that a friend of his may be interested in buying the property. One receiving the particulars he commented on the Juliette balcony saying that sails would need to be built in order for Romeo to complete the task in eloping with his lover and if the property developers still wanted someone to build the sails, his friend could do the job.

Needless to say, we passed on buying the property. It wasn't the money, it was the principle. That as well as the fact that you would get no privacy here. The garden is tiny and overlooked by another neighbouring property. The whole concept of mill rebuilds seems to be increasingly common these days. Only this week we compiled a list: Leinthall Starkes smock (Herefordshire); Hinckley smock (Leicestershire); Wraysbury smock (Windsor & Maidenhead); Brownbread Street Ashburnham smock (East Sussex); Sandhurst smock (Kent); Ashill tower (Somerset), The Pride of Lincoln tower (Lincoln) and Caldecotte tower (Milton Keynes). Elmsett is better than the photos I've seen of the 'rebuild' at

Harebeating post mill in East Sussex, also built purely for residential purposes.

I don't have a real opinion in all of this, other than if you're going to rebuild a windmill from scratch to live in, you make it as close to the original as possible as opposed to this oversized suppository known as 'Elmsett Mill'. Property developers should take a leaf out of the book that's currently being written at Ockley in Surrey, where the smock windmill that once stood there is being skilfully rebuilt as close to the original as is possible. The smock collapsed in 1944, leaving until now just the octagonal red brick base. Vincent Pargeter has been commissioned to rebuild the smock tower. She is to be fitted with sails and the mill will be lived in by the owners.

VANISHED MILLS Peter Greene

GREAT BEALINGS MILLS

It seems increasingly likely that two mills once stood in the parish of Great Bealings, one towards the eastern edge of the village centre (Grid Ref 236485), the other to the north-west of the village and north of Boot Street (225493). The former shall be identified here as 'Seckford Hall Mill' as she stood on copyhold land held in Seckford Hall's Court Rolls; the latter shall be identified here as 'Great Bealings Hall Mill', as she seems likely to have been a copyhold property of this manor. Nothing remains of either mill.

Seckford Hall Mill

The mill was built, according to records kept by local Victorian diarist/archivist Canon Edward Moor, by Robert Merchant in 1810.¹ She stood on a local high point called Hill Close, a curious, steep-sided promontory, overlooking the valley of the River Fynn. By late 1810 the mill was up for sale, being in the occupation of Charles Todd (miller, rather than owner?). She was advertised as being situated '*on a very excellent eminence for wind*', and had one pair of stones. Erected on copyhold land from the Manor of Seckford Hall, the Court Rolls show that in January of 1812 she was sold by William Field to William Cook for the very low price of £35. During Cook's ownership the mill was worked by Robert Barber. Mr Cook sold it in 1823 to Samuel Walton for £500. After working her for only five years Walton sold the mill on to John Bartrum for £550. In 1841 Bartrum sold the property to Robert Harvey Orman Rivers for only £270, a relative



Seckford Hall Mill being dismantled c1857
by Canon Edward Moor (with kind permission Dr. Charles Dobree)

Joseph Rivers working the mill. The final record of the windmill standing is found in the Seckford Hall manorial records when Frederick William Catt bought it from Mr Rivers in 1853 for just £200. Four years later, in 1857, the property passed to Daniel Charles de Medewe for £317 10s 0d, with the windmill described as having been '*taken down*'.²

Milling during her lifetime was certainly challenging. She was built mid-way through the Napoleonic Wars. A substantial barracks had been built in Woodbridge (c.1803) to house some 5,000 soldiers, and was a major market for local mills. The soldiers left in 1815 after the defeat of Napoleon. She saw the post-war introduction of the Corn Laws in 1815 and the associated prosperity, but like so many of Suffolk's mills perhaps it was the repeal of these laws in 1846, and the importation of cheap American flour, that finally spelled her end. Perhaps she proved a more uneconomic mill than most, or maybe she was poorly constructed and inefficient; certainly Canon Moor (rector of Great Bealings) recorded that '*no one seems to have prospered in it*'.

Seckford Hall Mill was twice struck by tragedy. On June 26th 1818, three-year-old William Sheming and his eight-year-old sister walked up the hill to buy some pollard (a cheap, fibre-rich by-product of the milling process, and used as an animal feed). As they were waiting for the miller, Robert Barber, to return with the pollard, William was struck on the head by the sails of the mill and died from his wounds three days later. Notably, at the inquest there was criticism, by the coroner, over the lack of protective railings or fencing.³

Twenty years later James Lycurgus Squire, owner and miller, had employed as his assistant a local 14-year-old boy, Robert Loom: it was not uncommon for young children to be given apprenticeships by the Parish. On August 24th 1838 Squire and Robert Loom were at work grinding wheat. Robert was on the stone floor on the top floor of the mill and his master was below him on the first floor. Suddenly the shaft broke, Robert cried out and Squire stopped the mill. The young lad was trapped and drawn in by the spur wheel and stone nut, and instantly crushed to death by the head wheel and wallower.⁴

The mill was in the news again in 1842 when local brickmakers Henry Button, his son Abraham, and a Robert Benny were charged with breaking into the mill and stealing fifteen stone of flour.⁵ Henry Button was discharged from Woodbridge Gaol, though his son was committed to Ipswich Gaol, found guilty and sentenced in Ipswich to seven years transportation.⁶

Not a great deal is known about this mill from a technical point of view. She started, c.1810, with only one pair of stones. From the Inquest Post Mortem of Robert Loom it appears she had a cast iron shaft, and that she was running three pairs of French stones, almost certainly two in the head and one in the tail (pre-1837), and was fitted with an inclined oscillating sieve, or jumper (1841). She was an open-trestled mill with the cross-trees sitting on brick piers, and was driven by a pair of spring sails and a pair of common sails.

Great Bealings Hall Mill

Built pre-1803 in the middle-western edge of a field called Mill Hill, 'Great Bealings Hall Mill' was most probably an open-trestled post mill too. A 'drift' or common-way, since gone, provided access to Grundisburgh, and Playford and the Bealings. The earliest, and only, map showing this mill dates from 1806; it shows an estate owned by Thomas Smith, with the mill in the occupation of Samuel Worledge.¹ A broken line around the mill suggests she was fenced off to protect people from her sails.

In 1810 Joseph Rist took out a fire insurance policy with Royal Exchange Fire Insurance (Policy No.251815), the timber-built mill and gearing being valued at £80 and £35 respectively.² Eight years earlier he had insured his mill, with the mill valued at £90, and '*gears, millstones, wire-machines and dreffing mills*' were valued at £30 (Policy No.204167).³

In 1811 the mill was advertised for sale in the *Ipswich Journal*. A map of the area, dated 1823, shows Mill Hill but does not show a mill. There are no later records that mention the mill, so it can be assumed that she was dismantled or demolished between 1811 and 1823, possibly as a consequence of the closure of Woodbridge Barracks in 1815, or the trading of Seckford Hall Mill in 1810. Mill Hill field was sold to a local miller, James Nichols, in 1841, but the manorial records make no mention of a mill.

At present it is still unclear what type of windmill she was, though being 'timber built' she was either a smock mill or most probably open-trestled post mill (1803-1810). She had two pairs of stones (1811). She employed both bolting cloths and '*wire-machines*' for sifting and '*dreffing*' the flour, the pollard and the bran from the meal.

Mill Pitch

Finally, Hubert Simmons, a well known windmill historian, recorded that a field about 1½ miles east of the church, close to Seckford Hall, is called Mill Pitch.¹ There is no evidence that a windmill stood here other than the obvious association with the field's name. This could equally have been the location of a horse mill, common up to the 19th century, and generally used to produce animal feed.

Notes

Seckford Hall Windmill

- 1 Notes accompanying a watercolour by Canon Edward Moor of Great Bealings
- 2 Seckford Hall Manorial Records (Suffolk Record Office Ipswich (SROI))
- 3 Inquest into death of William Sheming (SROI)
- 4 Inquest into the death of Robert Loom (SROI)
- 5 Woodbridge Gaol Records (SROI)
- 6 Ipswich Gaol Records (SROI)

Great Bealings Hall Windmill

- 1 Great Bealings Maps (SROI)

- 2 Royal Exchange Fire Insurance (MS7253-63) Guildhall Hall, London
- 3 Royal Exchange Fire Insurance (MS7253-50) Guildhall Hall, London

Mill Pitch

- 1 HES Simmons Archive (Imperial College Science Museum Library)

NEWS

WORK AT TUDDENHAM WATERMILL

The watermill at Tuddenham St Mary near Mildenhall has been a restaurant since the early 1970's, and seems to have changed hands several times in recent years. It was purchased by Agellus Hotels Ltd in January 2005, since when it has been closed pending refurbishment. This work is now well under way, and will result in a significant enhancement in its appearance. At the time of writing the mill is still shrouded in scaffolding, so full details of the work must await the next newsletter, by which time the exterior at least should be finished. (M.B.)

UPS AND DOWNS AT PAKENHAM WATERMILL

It's been a good season at Pakenham in a number of ways - we have sold more flour and attracted more visitors in 2006 than we have for many years. An imaginative programme of special events ranging from craft demonstrations to children making Halloween lanterns has increased visitor numbers and interest in the mill generally. The demand for traditional stoneground wholemeal flour was no doubt helped by reports in the national press about additives and 'improvers' in the commercial product and we have been working hard to promote sales through a number of local outlets as well as at the mill itself.

Last winter the outside of the mill was repainted and the window frames repaired. The set of stones we use for milling were dressed and the mill pond dredged to clear it of a mass of water lilies and weeds and many tons of silt which had built up over the years and were impeding the flow to the wheel. An appeal has been launched to raise funds for the restoration of the Mill House and the provision of better visitor facilities. It was a good start to the new season.

The end of the season, however, has brought unexpected problems. Some months after the dredging the pond developed a leak, which at times caused water to seep onto the meal floor of the mill. Fortunately we were able to continue milling as long as the water level in the pond was not allowed to get too high. It was impossible to find the exact location of the leak and so a new line of defence, consisting of a deep trench filled with waterproof material has been constructed between the pond and the wall of the mill. Its effectiveness will be tested in the next few weeks. As if this was not enough, we recently discovered serious cracks in the spokes of the spur wheel. This wheel has clearly been modified, repaired and strengthened in the past but is now in urgent need of further work, which will be carried out during the winter by Thompsons of Alford.

Clearly we cannot mill until the work is done, and complete disaster has only been averted through the generosity of Dominic and Linda Grixti at Stanton windmill who have kindly agreed to mill our wheat for us so that we can keep the shops and markets supplied. The millers at Pakenham, accustomed to ample supplies of waterpower whenever we need it, have suddenly learned about milling which depends on the wind, and we watch the weather forecasts with renewed interest! (David Eddershaw)

CONSERVATION OF STANSFIELD TOWER MILL

Stansfield tower mill was one of the last of the romantic old ruins. The upper windows of the roofless ivy-clad tower had long since rotted away providing access for the many pigeons who had made it their home. The interior has been described as a spectacle of decay and indeed it was. As well as covering the outside of the tower, ivy was now invading the interior. Most of the floors had fallen to the ground where together with pigeon guano they formed several tons of compost. Looking up the tower's interior it appeared to be more like a kiln or chimney, but miraculously two stone spindles, stone nuts and one set of tentering gear survived. Also surviving were a bolter, wire machine and grain cleaner, making Stansfield the only Suffolk tower mill with auxiliary machinery and well worth its Grade II listing.

Rather than erecting internal scaffolding it was decided to partially reinstate the floors starting at the bottom and working up. Making use of the stub ends of the old floor beams to carry



Chris Hullcoop preparing to fit the first aluminium sheet
(Photo: Steve Binks)

the new structure, we built central 8ft by 8ft plywood floors at stone and bin floor levels. As funds were very limited the only floor to be fitted completely was the dust floor (of which no trace was left), which provided a platform from which the roof could be constructed.

The simplest form of roof was a shallow cone covered in long lasting and maintenance free aluminium. To secure the outer ends of the 16 rafters, 16 equally spaced vertical timbers were fitted to the walls, each with eight rawlplugs and stainless steel screws. For the central boss of the cone a 2ft diameter disc 4ins thick was made from plywood. This was set on a little pylon made from scrap timber and placed in the centre of the dust floor. The 16 rafters, made from 6ins x 2ins pressure-treated timber were cut to length and bolted on. Once they were all in place the pylon could be removed. The 1.5mm thick aluminium sheets were then cut into triangles and fitted to the rafters with aluminium nails 2ins apart. The overlap joints were secured with aircraft quality Sikaflex bonder and sealer.



The tower in October 2006

My work schedule specified only provision of a roof and access to allow this, but it would have been a pity not to leave the mill water-tight. I remembered there were some spare old windows at Burgh mill, left in the tower in case they could be used in another mill. They were collected and soon built into the top window openings. The very large lower windows proved more difficult and it was decided to fit glass in front of the old frames which had lost their glass. It is hoped that one day new sash windows together with their frames can be made and fitted, but they are likely to be very expensive.

While the roof was under construction the mill's owner Gerry Kane had been clearing the ground floor. Several very large pieces of concrete which had formed a part of a later roof on the dust floor had to be broken up with



Stansfield mill from the church tower (October 2006)

a sledge hammer. Several tons of broken concrete, rotted timber and guano had to be removed by shovel and wheelbarrow. About a third of the original boarded floor was found to be in good condition and over the next year or so Gerry Kane hopes to renew the rest.

As the tower stands high it could be a tempting target for lightning, so a copper lightning conductor was fitted on the north side.

The work at Stansfield mill conserves what remains and there was no attempt to set the first steps on a course of full restoration. To commission a millwright to reinstate it as a working mill would require a major lottery win or alternatively the knowledge, skill and dedication of a young Chris Wilson or Peter Dolman. As nothing like this was available for Stansfield we had to do what we could with the limited resources available. The mill survives like many others as a tower with machinery, a realistic and honourable status with the advantage of no sails to maintain. (C.H.)

RECOLLECTIONS OF PAKENHAM WINDMILL

Michael Bryant, owner of Pakenham tower mill, has written an entertaining 28-page booklet, *A Touch of the Wind*, recounting some of his memories of running the mill back to the 1930's. The war period is covered in some detail, and there is a very amusing story from when Michael helped the local undertaker in the late 1940's. The nice photos include views of the steam engines which once powered Cranfield's Mill in Ipswich. However, he does not go into detail about the changes to the mill over the years, and there are errors, such as the picture of the mill on page 6, captioned as 1945, but which cannot be earlier than 1950 as it shows the gallery. The booklet is available from the mill or via the SPAB Mills Section bookshop. (M.B.)

RUSHBROOK'S MILL UNDER CONVERSION

Work has been under way for several months at Rushbrook's Mill in Paper Mill Lane, Bramford. The scheme will see the mill building converted together with a replacement extension, providing 22 apartments and office use. The mill was built as a paper mill but last used for corn milling. It is greatly altered and no machinery remains, and is not listed. (M.B.)



Rushbrook's Mill in November 2006
(Photo: Sally-Ann Upson)

EVENTS

S.M.G. SOCIAL EVENING: SATURDAY DECEMBER 16th, from 7.30pm, at FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, FONNEREAU ROAD, IPSWICH

As on previous occasions we will supply some nibbles and the drink, but please bring some comestibles if you can. More importantly, bring video or DVD on the theme of mills and milling. We will show some of the films we commissioned from Marcus Cook, including a record of this summer's work at Stansfield mill. The venue is in the centre of Ipswich, close to Christchurch Park, and is the one we used for this year's public meeting.

S.M.G. PUBLIC MEETING: SATURDAY MARCH 3rd 2007

This winter's public meeting will be on the theme of mill archives, with guest speaker Dr Ron Cookson, who has successfully launched and developed the Mills Archive Trust. Full details will be given in the next newsletter.
