

## Michael Bryant 1928 - 2013

Mike Bryant, farmer and miller, of Mill Farm, Pakenham, died on March 18th this year, He was 85.

When I was at school, I cycled to see his tower mill, where he made me most welcome. I remember him calling at Framsdon, where I was working in the late 1960s. I showed him a little engine-driven mill on a nearby farm which was shortly to be sold. I bought a pair of millstones and Mike bought the engine, which he took to Pakenham. For some reason the noise made by the engine had to be measured. When the inspecting officer arrived, all was quiet as they stood in the farmyard, and the inspector asked Mike to start the engine. To the inspector's surprise Mike told him he had started the engine half an hour ago and it was running!

Many years ago we held our AGM in the sack store at Pakenham. we used straw bales and sacks as seats, and with stock outside there was a real working farm atmosphere.

Throughout his life, Mike took the lead in keeping the tower mill in good condition, eventually establishing 'the Friends of Pakenham Mill'. In 2006 a book was published recording Mike's life and telling how they dealt with the many problems of a farmer and miller's life, and also some very amusing incidents. It tells of a way of life that is moving ever further into the past.



*Pakenham Windmill.*

*Picture - JWN*