

# Paul Jarvis 1926 - 2014

Paul Jarvis, former Mills Section Chairman and Kent researcher/restorer sadly died earlier this year. His influence in his later years was far and wide, and he will be best remembered for being the driving force behind the East Kent Mills Group from its inception. His enthusiasm was always evident, and anyone that went to his Sunday milling sessions at Stelling Minnis would leave with clothes covered in flour and a head full of knowledge.

Academically, he produced some important work, not least his acclaimed TIMS paper on 'Stability in Post Mills'. Often forgotten is his one man effort to persuade and assist the owner of Beacon Windmill at Benenden to perform a dramatic waterproofing operation in 1979, preventing almost certain collapse.

In later years, he became Head Miller at Crabble Mill in Dover.

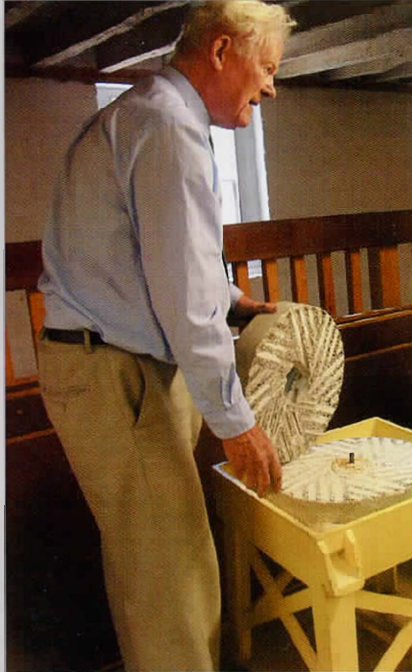
**Rob Cumming**

**In his own words from the Mills Section Newsletter No.71:**

*"Born in 1926, almost in sight of the Pluckley smock mill ruin, I remember being fascinated by it when my mother took me out in a pushchair. I later learned that my maternal grandfather ran the mill for a short time when he was courting, but by 1926 he was a farmer and I recall sitting on his knee studying 'English Windmills Vol 1 by M.I. Batten', a book which I have to this day. It was from that book that I learned of the S.P.A.B.*

*My paternal grandfather was a carpenter by trade, who had two windmills and other prime movers to drive his woodworking machinery. In my day he was using a portable steam engine which I enjoyed stoking.*

*I still recall my delight at seeing the long since gone Headcorn smock mill working, and later on the now preserved Willesborough mill as well as the tower mill at Stanford, all in the 1930's.*



*Paul explaining to Young Millers at Crabble Mill, how millstones work.  
Photograph - Mildred Cookson*

*It would be many more years before I was able to enter a working windmill, though I was familiar with a local roller provender mill which my father assisted in installing. At that time, he had left the family business and was in the motor trade, but later took over his father's business.*

*As a result I became familiar with many aspects of wood and metal working techniques in the old tradition, which have proved invaluable in millwrighting terms, though I make no claims to be a millwright.*

*Having left school during the war, I worked in the now vanished power station at Ashford, (Kent) which started me on a lifetime career. Soon however I was called up and served several years in the Royal Signals, but was pleased to put that life behind me. Going back to the power industry, I moved from diesel to coal fired stations, finishing up at the*

*two Dungeness nuclear power stations as an operations engineer during commissioning.*

*Mills as a hobby had to take a back seat for many years but by the 70's I could at last put the time and effort into what had been for so many years a prospective hobby. I joined the newly formed East Kent Mills Group, soon to become its Chairman. I also joined the Section and TIMS. After some years I felt privileged when I was invited to join the Section Committee, and equally so to have been elected as its present Chairman."*

*Paul Jarvis April 1997*