



Friends of Lowfield Heath Windmill

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Dear Friends,

THE STORY SO FAR - Part 2.

After dismantling the windmill last July, winter was outwardly a quiet time, but things were certainly going on. The millwrights are making an excellent job of repairing the timbers. The metalwork is being repaired and treated by our regular Sunday morning volunteers, who do many other jobs too. (We are very fortunate that most of the metal parts remain.) On the new site ten thousand bricks were cleaned by hand by volunteers.

We had one big blow; the millwright's estimate of costs rose a great deal when he examined the parts of the windmill after the dismantling. Perhaps it is a good thing that we didn't know this would happen, or we might never have taken on the project!

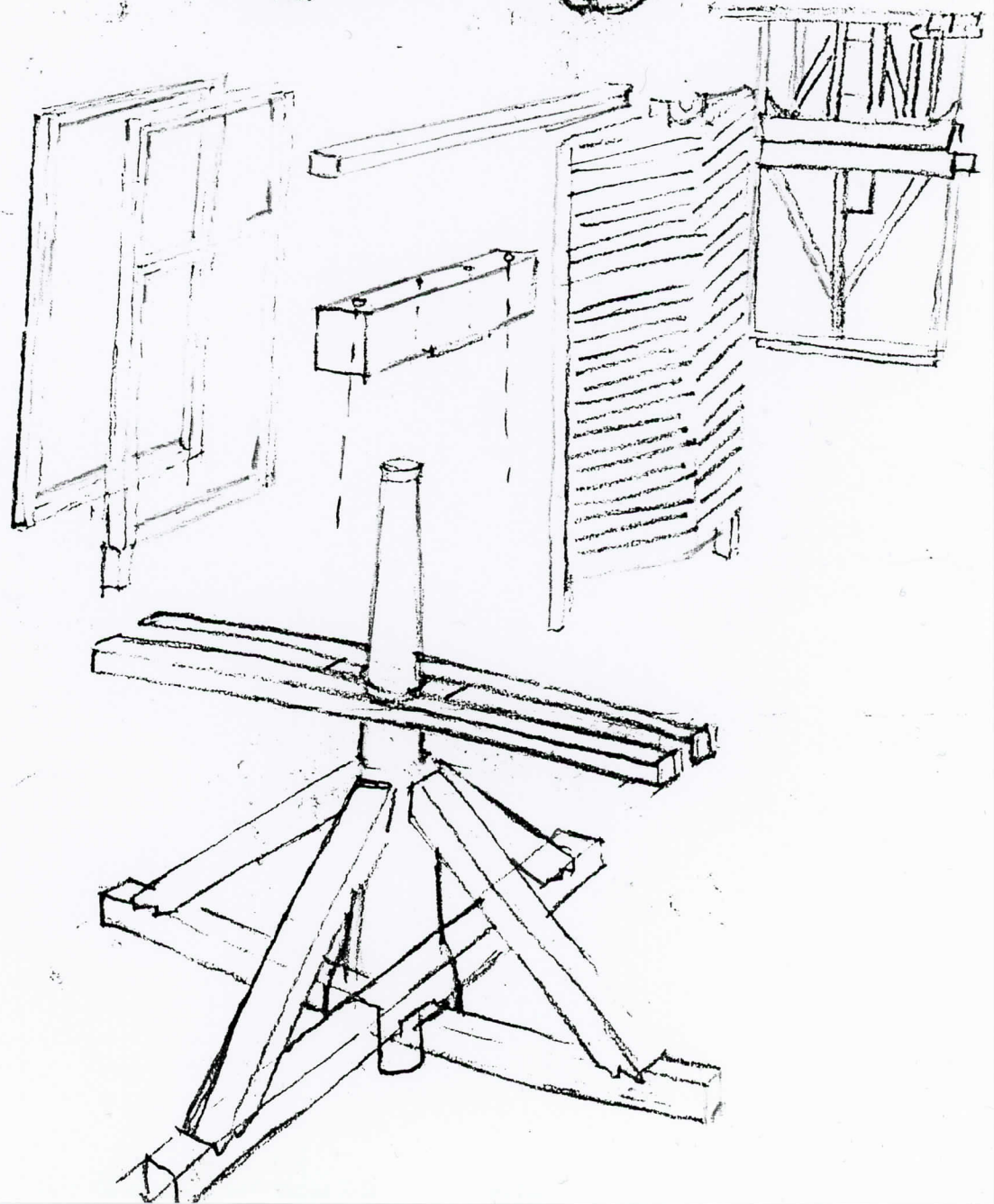
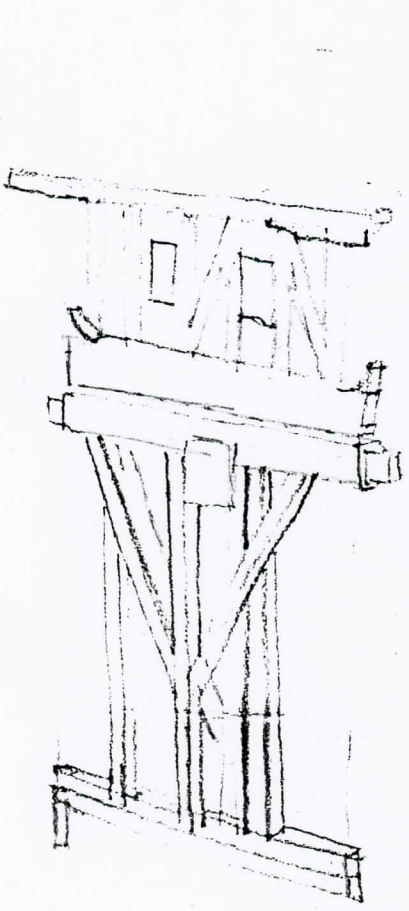
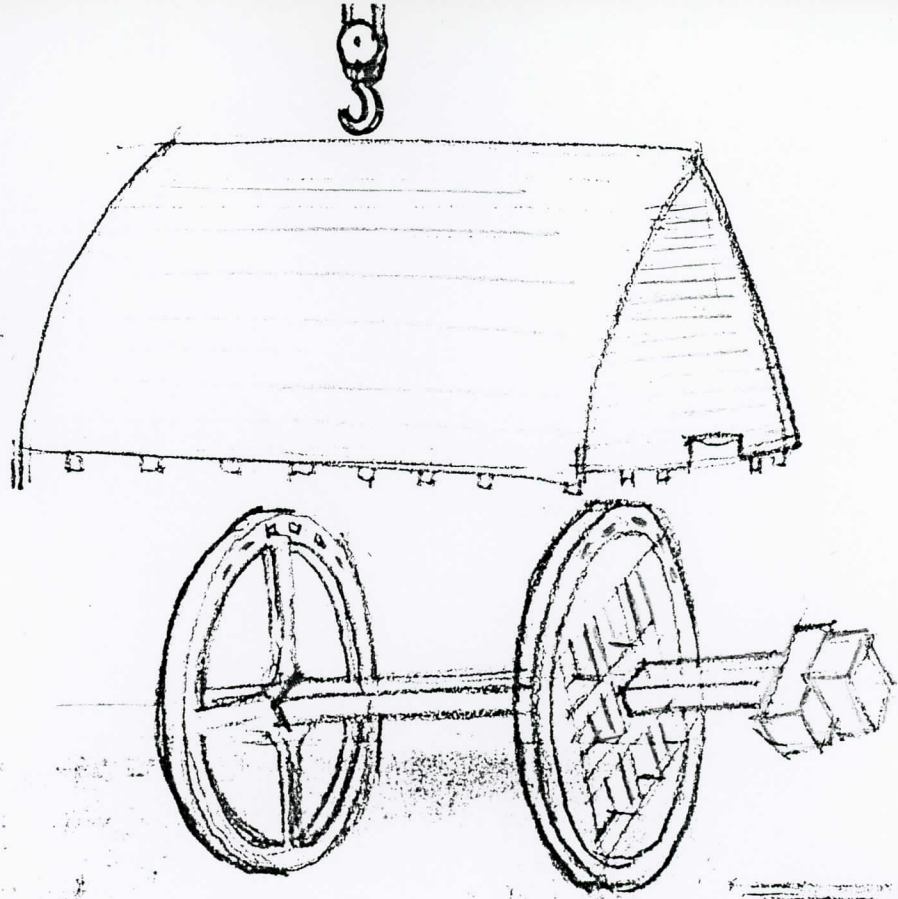
In the spring came a very encouraging and wonderful surprise, three of the trustees were invited to an afternoon reception of the Shell Better Britain Campaign at the Banqueting Room at Whitehall. This is an annual event, in a very historic building, displaying four of the very many projects which the Shell Better Britain Campaign had supported, and - guess what - Lowfield Heath Windmill was one of those four projects. The DoE, the BBC, the press, and the Chairman of Shell were all there. It was a great honour.

As spring came we were watching the state of the field by the Zoo, it had been very wet all the winter, we wondered if it would ever be dry enough to hold heavy trucks carrying loads of concrete for the foundations. But suddenly in late May it was dry, and almost immediately Mitchells of Horley dug out the foundations, followed rapidly by building inspection and the concrete drop, before the next rain fell. (And also before the photographers got there.) Soon the bricklayers started work - the brick laying was too specialized for unskilled volunteers. Now the four pillars and the roundhouse have been completed up to the level of the cross-trees, once these are in position a few more courses of bricks will complete the base of the mill.

The timber repairs have been more complicated than expected, but it is sensible to make a thorough job while the mill is in parts, it will then hopefully last another 250 years! We expect to erect the trestle consisting of the cross trees, quarter bars and the main post in September. It is still touch-and-go whether we can re-erect the body of the mill this autumn. If we can't, then we will be ready to put it up next spring.

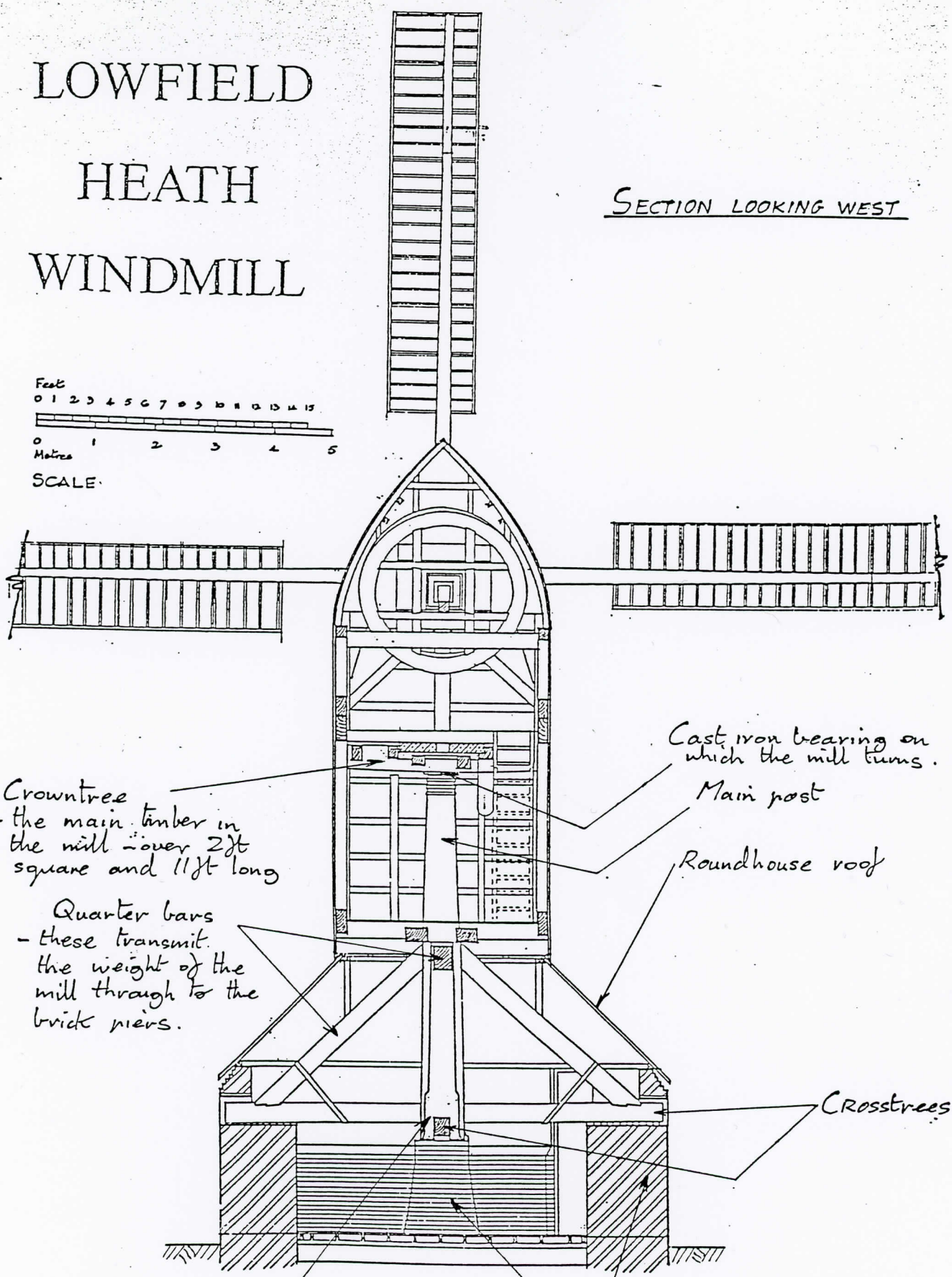
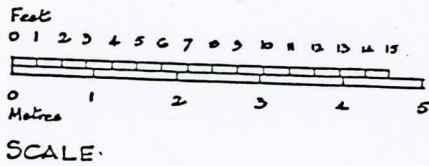
PENCIL SKETCH
TO SHOW
BREAKDOWN
FOR DISMANTLING
LOWFIELD HEATH
WINDMILL.

4P.



LOWFIELD HEATH WINDMILL

SECTION LOOKING WEST



Cast iron bearing on which the mill turns.
Main post

Roundhouse roof

Crosstrees

Crowntree
- the main timber in the mill - over 2ft square and 11ft long

Quarter bars
- these transmit the weight of the mill through to the brick piers.

Brick piers - an integral part of the round house.

This joint does not take the weight of the post, but instead locates the bottom of the post.

I have used a number of terms that have recently become household words to me, but I expect are new to many of you, so Peter James will explain with diagrams.

One last matter, we are still short of money, this is quite a worry to us. Every little bit that comes in helps. Please renew your membership or become a member, (details enclosed), or donate a pound for a (symbolic) brick or cog, or if you can - give us a big donation!

It is a very big job, but I'm sure we are doing the right thing in preserving the superb technology of a post mill.

Many thanks,
Jean Shelley.

Peter James or Jean Shelley are always willing to show slides of the Mill and its dismantling, etc. Jean Shelley also has slides on old Lowfield Heath.

WHO WERE THE MILLERS ?

1820s. James Constable held the mill. It was worked by a Mr PARKER. (Fannies & Mason, 'The Windmills of Surrey & Inner London' 1966).

1842. Owners were William & Charles Constable, trustees for Susan Greece. (Tithe Map) - (The Constables owned Horley Watermill).

1851 Census. Lowfield Heath Mill House was occupied by William MOBSBY, age 27, journeyman miller, born at Lindfield Sx; his wife Mary, age 33, born at Cowfold; & their children William who was 3, & Emily, 1, both born in Charlwood Parish.

1871 Census. Turnpike Road Lowfield Heath, lived John ANSELL, age 48, miller born at Horsham; his wife Sarah, 41, born at Cowfold, & their children Lucy Louise, 9; Sarah Jane, 5; & Mary, 3; all born in Charlwood Parish.

From the gravestones at Lowfield Heath Church we learn that John ANSELL age 81, died in 1904, at the Mill House where he had resided for 50 years; and his wife Sarah died in 1907 in her 78th year.

1880s. The mill ceased to work by wind power, but was later worked by a portable engine. (Fannies & Mason).

1882 & 1895. Kelly's Directories lists Joseph Henry Robinson, miller.