

# Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, Bromsgrove

*Keith Andrews*



The 8ft high model of the windmill in the entrance area, and detail of the machinery.



This **1830 post mill** had two common sails and two patent sails, but on reconstruction at the museum it was changed to have four common sails, as originally built. It has one pair of French burr stones, and until recently was fully operational producing flour for sale in the museum shop. It has to be turned into the wind manually by means of a winch with a rope that can be looped round posts. Unfortunately it is currently out of action as the pivoting mechanism of the buck needs repairs.





The windmill in the children's play area



The stone watermill and Dutch-style windmill are features of the model railway layout

This **crushing mill** from Redditch built about 1800 was used for making perry, an alcoholic drink made from fermenting pear juice. The pears are crushed by the vertical roller stone which was pulled round by a horse or donkey. They are then packed in hessian bags ('cheeses') and squeezed in the screw press to get the juice. The museum has its own orchard where it grows pears and apples; using this crushing mill, it makes perry and cider to sell in its shop.



*So in all there are four windmills and a watermill!* – but only the one windmill is real, as is the crushing mill. The museum has over 30 other rural, small industrial, and commercial buildings that they have rescued.