

## Editorial

### *Ruth Andrews*

As you have all been stuck at home in lockdown with nothing to do I had hoped that some of you would have had time to write a newsletter article. Maybe you just lack inspiration? I know you won't be able to write about current holidays or visits, but perhaps you could tell us about some past experiences or events. Without your contributions, it makes it very hard for me to entertain you.

In January Keith bought a slide converter with a view to converting some of our 5000 or so slides dating from 1968-1988 into digital format, to make them more accessible. The coronavirus lockdown has provided the ideal opportunity to do that! It has brought back all sorts of memories. The picture on the front cover is one of these. On pages 18-20, there is a selection of pictures of water and windmills from these slides.

The easing of the lockdown seems to have released some planning applications related to mills:

- At Chase Mill, Bishops Waltham, Jeremy Nedwell has successfully applied to convert the existing offices to residential flats: see planning reference 19/01791/FUL at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning>.
- Near Bursledon Windmill there is an application to build 14 houses: see planning reference O/20/87736 at <https://planning.eastleigh.gov.uk/s/public-register>. This one is more controversial and the arguments seem to be ongoing. Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust (HBPT) are following up on the application and will take action as and when needed.

Keith and I are both probably covid-19 free, and I hope you are too. It occurs to me that we should also be free of all other germs, as we have been assiduously isolating in lockdown!

## Letter from the Chairman

***Andy Fish***

We have reluctantly decided that due to government advice on Covid-19 and our responsibilities to our members and volunteers, we have postponed or cancelled all of our planned activities up to and including our lecture at God's House Tower that was planned to take place on 12 June entitled *Archaeological Investigations of Mills in the Southampton Area* by Matt Garner. We intend to assess the ongoing situation in August and will then confirm whether the AGM will go-ahead as planned in September.

This outbreak has certainly changed the face of heritage in Britain with most sites closed and struggling to remain solvent. Some have started crowdfunding, including Whitchurch Silk Mill, to raise money to cover their fixed costs. The staff at Eling Tide Mill have been furloughed; all the flour they had in stock has been sold through Sunnyfields Farm Shop at Marchwood. If all goes to plan by the time you read this their miller will hopefully be milling some more flour for local sales.

On a brighter note, you will see that Sturminster Newton mill in Dorset has started milling commercially to produce flour for the local community. (*See next page.*)

When members of the group travelled on our Midlands study trip a number of years ago we visited Charlecote Mill near Hampton Lucy in Warwickshire, and we met Karl the Miller. He has stepped up production to over 3 tons a week and still he can't keep up with orders with customers experiencing up to a 7 week wait for flour.

As I write this I should have been driving a minibus on our study tour to Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, but that was an early casualty as we decided to postpone it for 12 months, 3 weeks before the government announced lockdown.

The mill at Longbridge is closed at present but the landlord has carried out some clearance of tailrace banks so that is a positive outcome.

Both myself and the committee hope you are all keeping well and you continue to stay safe.

## Coronavirus Cancellations

***Meeting Report, 21 March 2020*** With social distancing being strongly encouraged, although not into the full lockdown, it was sadly decided to postpone our lecture and meeting in Emsworth for the time being. It is hoped to rearrange Peter Hill's talk on ***Windmills of Sweden*** for the Christmas meeting.

***Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Study Tour, 14-17 May 2020*** With the uncertainty of the situation, this year's study tour was cancelled. It was done in good time to avoid any non-refundable costs.

***Summer Meeting, 12 June 2020*** As Andy says above, this meeting with Matt Garner's talk has been cancelled. It is hoped to rearrange it for another date. Matt worked for the city Archaeology Unit and was in charge of, among other things, the excavations at the Weston mill of Walter Taylor's Blockworks

***Milling at Longbridge*** This has also been suspended until further notice.