

Meeting Report, 16 March 2019

Alison Stott

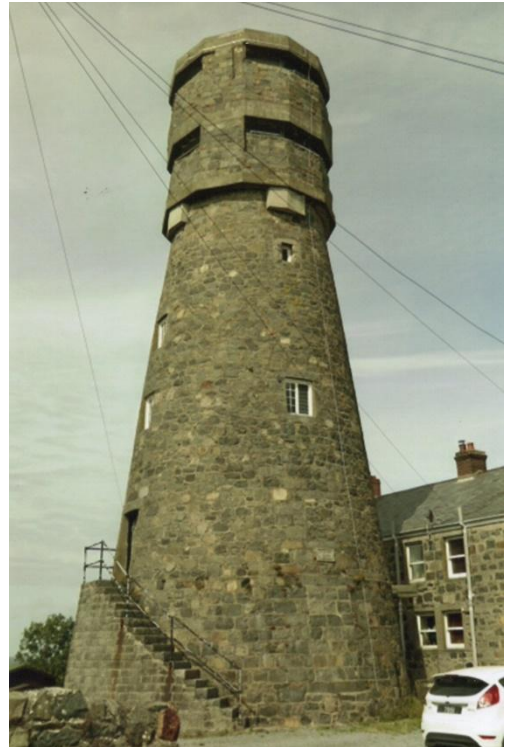
Photos by Peter Hill

Members met in the Community Hall in Emsworth and were welcomed by Andy Fish. He began the meeting by giving a short tribute to the late Tony Yoward.

We then had a talk by Peter Hill on "**Windmills of the Channel Islands**".

Some twenty years ago Peter had visited the Channel Islands and discovered that there were very few records of the windmills which once existed. He therefore set about doing a thorough survey, first of the windmills of Guernsey, Sark, and Herm, and a less detailed one of those on Jersey.

On ***Guernsey*** of the fifteen mills which once existed the remains of seven are still visible, either as derelict towers or converted into desirable residences. One, Vale Mill (*right*) built in 1850, was heightened by 40ft. during the German Occupation to act as a lookout tower and still has the remains of graffiti visible inside. Le Hechet (or Ozanne's) mill (below) built in 1825 was converted into living accommodation in about 1967.



There is no machinery in any of the mills but the towers are used as seamarks by the local fishermen.

Peter found just one record of a smock mill which was situated beside a local brickworks and used to pump water for the brick industry.

He then moved on to **Sark** where there were three windmills, two now being ruined but the third one the Seigneurial Mill (*right*) still has its machinery intact – although the Germans removed its sails and used the tower as an observation post.

Peter's travels then took him to **Herm**, where he found just one mill (*far right*), a parallel-sided



tower mill with a crenellated top and external stairway. It was built by the Cordelier monks sometime between 1440 and 1485, but it was much restored in the mid 1880s, and is now used as a garden store.

Finally off to **Jersey**, the largest of the islands, which once had about 25 mills; practically all have gone without trace apart from four.



The first one, St. Martin's Mill, Rozel (*far left*), thought to have been built in 1799, is right by the coast, and was bought by the States of Jersey around 1900 to be used as a seamount. Its height was increased by about a third during the German occupation, and it was used as a range-finding position. It is still used as a seamount – hence the white paint.

The next one, New Mill at St. Peter's (*above centre*), built in 1837, once had four patent sails which were replaced by a Petter oil engine which worked until the 1940s. It is now surrounded by the buildings of a pub and has some dummy sails to attract tourists.

Another mill is just used as a seamount tower, and the last one is right at the southern end of the island and is in fact the most southerly surviving windmill in the British Isles. It has been incorporated into a luxury private residence.