

Mr Streatwell's Silk Mill at Overton, Hants

Review by Ruth Andrews

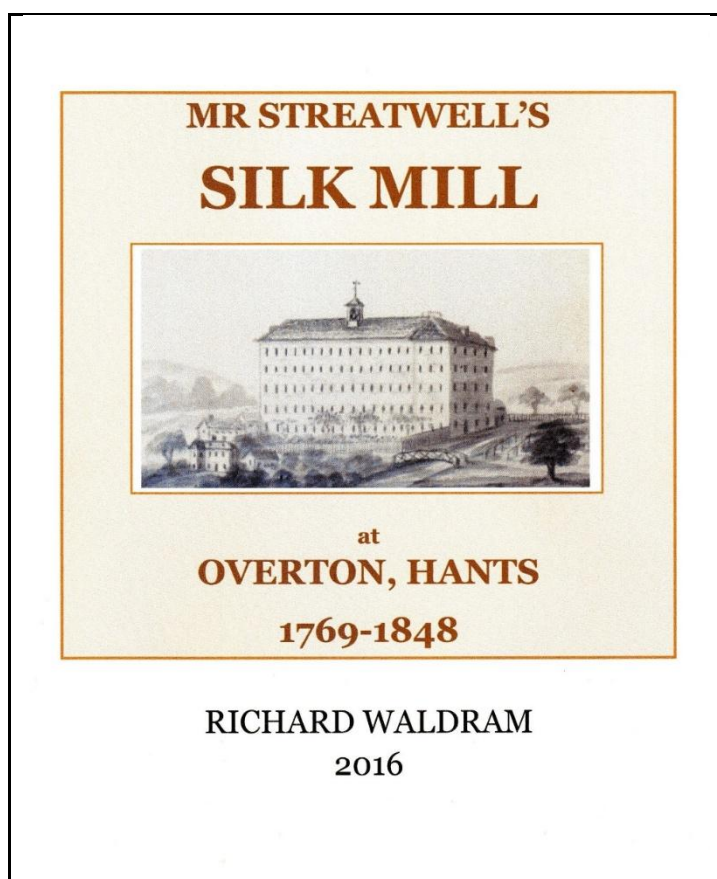
Richard Waldram, one of our newest members sent me a copy of his recent book. It is a well-written narrative accompanied by clear maps and illustrations. After a few introductory chapters, it follows the paper chase of records kept in Hampshire Archives (with meticulous references) to tell the human story of the mill and its effect on the community. I certainly found it a very interesting read, although I wish he had included grid references for those not familiar with the area.

Paperback, 10 x 8.25in,
42 pages,
with illustrations and maps in colour

Richard Waldram (2016)

Copies are available from Richard at
14 Winchester St, Overton, Hampshire
RG25 3HS
email richardwaldram2@gmail.com

Price £6 plus £1.50 p&p



As Richard says, this book traces the story of the mill on this site over 400 years and its conversion to a silk mill in 1769 as the industrial revolution was gathering pace. Nothing remains of the mill except the millpond, the sluice and a bridge so it will disappoint those whose primary interest is industrial archaeology. However, as well as the history of the mill, there is a good deal about the social history of the village at the time, attitudes to the use of child labour and the workhouse as well as the ups and downs of the silk industry in Hampshire and elsewhere. There is also a nice story about a dispute between two millers about the use of water.