

## Midland Mills Group Talk about Intermediate Mills

David Plunkett

This intrepid Hampshire Tide Mill scholar risked his reputation by agreeing to talk about Intermediate Mills in the centre of England with the Midland Mills Group. This was booked for Saturday 7th March this year, at the restored and picturesque New Hall Mill, Sutton Coldfield.

Ros and I had decided to make it a weekend away, so travelled up to Litchfield and the National Arboretum on the day before. On the Saturday morning we went sightseeing in Litchfield before making our way to the parkland surrounding New Hall Mill where we had a picnic lunch.

We arrived early at the small watermill and had time to view the carefully maintained mill with John Bedington and other MMG members. Although not in full working order at present, it is restored and open at set times to the public and is the base for the MMG activities. There were several other faces (well known to me) including: Kate & Tony Bonson and Tim Booth, who had already attended a group committee meeting at the Mill in the morning.

I gave my PowerPoint presentation on 'Intermediate Mills' which was derived from my studies on wrongly attributed tide mills in North Eastern and Southern England. This created much interest and good questioning at the end.

It was a pity that the attendance numbers at this event were low and, like many mill groups, they have difficulty getting members to attend meetings and participate in group activities.



New Hall Mill, Sutton Coldfield - view - north to mill complex



View inside mill



Unusual sharpening stone