

SPAB Mills Section Meeting

David Plunkett

The West Blatchington Windmill venue, was ideal for the Autumn SPAB Mills Meeting, on Saturday 11th October. Compact in size and adequate for our needs, all with windmill on top.

After our chairman Jonathon Cook had welcomed and introduced the day's events it was on to the first speaker, Rob Cumming.

As a teenager 30 years ago, he was well known in SPAB and MRG circles for his interest in Kent Mills. Here he was, once more, giving us a modern perspective on Kent wind-milling, which was much enjoyed.



This was followed by the Coultershaw Heritage Site Project which has become much enlarged from the days of only a restored, single estate, water pumping set. Peter Hill then gave us some background into West Blatchington Windmill and the years of work and funding it required to reach it's current excellent condition. A fine buffet lunch was provided by Peter's wife, Joan and her friends,

The afternoon session started with millwright Tony Hole who has been involved with mill

projects in Hampshire and the South East of England. He spoke to us about the history and workmanship of his family company over the decades. This was followed by Richard Howes, on the Argos Hill Windmill project.. Our last contributor was James Tasker who spoke, on mill reconstruction and the challenges it provides.

Additional members contributions included presentations by:- David Plunkett relating HMG news and events, Colin Smith who spoke enthusiastically on Scottish Mills and Brian Pike who treated us to a video on Nutley Windmill.

The meeting offered a good venue outside of London and thanks must go to Peter Hill, and his well organised team of volunteers. The whole event was most successful.

