

From the Chattering Damsel at the Editor's Desk

"Why are you interested in mills?" I am often asked. "Why not?" I reply, "Just remember that staple food, clothing, tools and utensils, pots, pans, ploughshares, swords and battleaxes have all been fashioned by water, wind and muscle (human and animal) power in a variety of mills through a thousand years of civilisation; and those mills have been developed into the factories we have today, but their machinery, ways of production and the people who worked them are far more interesting. What's more, in Hampshire we have a mill whose framework is constructed of a famous American warship's beams and flooring. Hello, are you still there..."



Caption reads: "I've decided to teach her to talk; what harm can it do?" The Editor does not require responses! Putting this edition together through February has been a fascinating task and in the true nature of the current vernacular to 'think global' exactly that has been happening in this new electronic age with emails toing and froing between my desk and correspondents in such diverse places as a Speyside village in Scotland, New York in U.S.A, and a town in Canada. Meanwhile, Hampshire members have contributed articles on Berkshire, France, Middlesex and Devon. Also contributed from Graeme Stewart at Knockando, Speyside, is this cartoon with my email address in mind. Yeah, bet you didn't reckon I'd print it though, Graeme! The photos are explained in Starts below.

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Beaulieu Tide Mill Chesapeake Mill New York Traffic Island Pottery Display Bread

David Plunkett advises that Beaulieu Tide Mill is still under wraps but at least restoration work is now, at last, in progress. Two tales from across 'the Pond': Well, we're used to seeing millstones set in garden walls and patios but in a busy intersection's traffic island? David Plunkett has been

involved in a bid to have the pair of stones removed to a museum – they are possibly the earliest tide mill's stones used in America. The full explanation will appear in our next newsletter. An altogether unusual request has come from Fred Addis, Curator of the Leacock Museum National Historic Site in Orillia, Ontario. He is hoping to track down a piece of wood authenticated as from the famous U.S.S. Chesapeake after it was broken up and a Mr Holmes made Chesapeake Mill out of the timbers. Do you know the whereabouts of a sliver of the old warship which may be in private ownership? Fred Addis would dearly love to add such a piece to the memorabilia of Stephen Leacock. If you can help, please contact Fred Addis by email on: faddis@primus.ca. and do have a look at the museum's website: www.leacockmuseum.com.

Longbridge Mill at Sherfield on Loddon makes 3 entries here: it has been out of commission for a couple of months due to starts dropping out of the wheel. A millwright has been summoned but at the time of writing, Feb 18, has not yet put in an appearance, which puts our February milling in doubt. Basil Hunt, senior miller there has been ordered to take life easier and 'the Hunt' is now on to find willing and eager trainee millers to whom he can pass his considerable skills and knowledge. New pottery display bread made by Bursledon potters will soon be joining the three loaves made for us by Lincolnshire's Geraldine Mathieson, in the mill's display cases.