

## Presidential Notes

*Here we pick up John Silman's notes from the end of last year (2010).*

### November 2010

22 *Monday* Spoke to members of Eastleigh Catholic Church Society on the History of the Post Card.

27 *Saturday* Milling at Longbridge. I wish we could persuade more members to join us on milling days and learn the craft of milling. Can anyone help?

### December 2010

2 *Thursday* Very heavy (and early) snow. I'm glad we were not milling.

11 *Saturday* HMG meeting at Abbey Hotel, Romsey.

13 *Monday* Millers Team Christmas Dinner at Longbridge.

18 *Saturday* Milling cancelled due to heavy snow.

24 *Friday* To our eldest daughter's home in Dartmouth for Christmas. Much snow especially in Dorset but roads largely clear. Our youngest daughter, driving down to Dartmouth via the M5, reported roads from Bath all clear. Return journey home on *Tuesday* 28th. No problems.

### January 2011

*Friday* Meeting with our Project Manager, John Christmas, and Alun Brown of Eastleigh Borough Council at the turbines at Bishopstoke. Alun and his Merry Men have stanked off the river so that no water can reach the top of the turbines and have commenced removing the years of accumulated silt in order to expose the turbines. The Environmental Agency, having said this was O.K. have now changed their mind! We had a meeting arranged for 4<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the control sluices at Hockley Mill.

21 *Friday* Teabread prepared for milling at Longbridge Mill.

22 *Saturday* Milling at Longbridge with smaller than usual number of volunteers, but it went well and with many interested visitors.

### February 2011

4 *Friday* Meeting at Hockley Mill with representative of Environment Agency ref. sluices, uncertainties resolved.

8 *Tuesday* Visited Jane Hirst with Alison to confirm details for walk around HMG Alton.

10 *Thursday* I spoke to Whitchurch Townswomens' Guild on water and wind mills in the morning and talked about postcards to Fernhill Sheltered Housing in the afternoon.

17 *Thursday* To Longbridge Mill ref. work on the waterwheel.

24 *Thursday* In making teabread for the Saturday milling, we tried some minor changes to the recipe and baked the mixture at a slightly lower temperature, resulting in what we think is our best yet.

26 *Saturday* Excellent milling for February.

## **March**

9 *Wednesday* Our daughter Rachel gave us, as a Christmas present, tickets to a lecture held at Uppark entitled 'Village Life in the 40s & 50s' The lecturer spoke about his father working as Farm Bailiff on a large estate in Hampshire which paralleled almost exactly my experience. A very good lunch followed making the day a superb Christmas present! Thank you, Rachel.

17 *Thursday* To Cobbs Mill in Sussex with a crane -equipped truck to collect various milling items arranged by John Christmas.

19 *Saturday* HMG Spring Meeting at the French Horn followed by an authoritative and detailed walk around Alton led by Jane Hirst. "Jane, it was a delightful trip around Alton. Thank you very much!"

20 *Sunday* Trustees meeting at Crux Easton. We had the opportunity to look at the work to the wellhead, being carried out by Messrs. Janes and Co., which looks very good.

29 *Tuesday* Attended a work party organised by Dave to carry out various works at Eling Tide Mill.

## **April 2011**

2 *Saturday* A very interesting day in Wales attending the annual SWWEAC on A1 travel, courtesy of Andy Fish - in his car this time and not in the minibus. Thanks Andy.

## **April 2011**

16 *Saturday* To SERIAC Conference in Brighton this time and in an Eastleigh bus driven by Andy. Seats were a bit cramped for such a distance, but the conference was very good.

19 *Tuesday* Working party at Pilcot Mill, Dogmersfield. Mill was swept out and various items neatly stowed on the rearranged clear lower floor; we were rewarded with a mouthwatering lunch and in our turn we promised to return to do the bin and stones floors

## **May 2011**

3 *Tuesday* Tony & I spoke to Whitchurch History Society. Our subject was, 'So you think you know about Industrial Archaeology?' This seemed very well received and we were rewarded with a generous cheque for group funds.

4 *Wednesday* Further attendance at Pilcot Mill to clear and stow on the bin and stones floor. Thanks to Dave for the organising.

7 *Saturday* Andy, Mick, Gavin and myself went to Christchurch to look at excavations on what might have been the town mill. On site, stretching under two excavations, the local archaeologists had exposed a sizeable timber some 7 or 8 feet down and 8 – 10 feet long. A very interesting morning.

9 *Monday* Mick and I went to Winchester City Offices to look at the plans for the installation of a turbine at Town Mill, Alresford.