

Tail Race ~~~~~

The Mills Archive Trust held its second workshop of the Frank Gregory Online project at West Blatchington Mill, Sussex, in April. This event showcased this characterful molinologist's vast collection and MAT Volunteer, Elizabeth Trout, presented a biography of Frank, with information pieced together from the myriad items of all sorts that he stored away plus interviews with Frank's family and associates. Much of Frank Gregory's milling memorabilia has been digitised and the originals returned to the Weald & Downland Museum, Singleton. Next, an application for Heritage Lottery Funding is in the pipeline to enable setting up a project to record histories, industries, milling families and peoples' memories of the mills which are known to have existed in an area centered on Reading, loosely based on Berkshire, part of South Oxfordshire, part of South Buckinghamshire and part of the River Loddon in Hampshire. A new venture for MAT this mammoth task, which has gained the support of many societies and museums throughout the area, has an eager team of volunteers ready to start. MAT Volunteers are an enterprising lot: Luke Bonwick has just written a book charting the history of Brill Windmill; David Neames is compiling a book of windmills in art; Guy Blythman's next venture into print will be a book on Oxfordshire windmills which he is currently researching. Guy has also alerted us to a National Register of English Windmills in Photographs he completed in 2002 which records their type, state of repair and location. It is available via his website: www.guyblythman.com. Or write to him via email: guy.blythman@talktalk.net Meanwhile, keep up to date with what's concerning the mills world on the MAT Blogsite via: www.millsarchive.com.

Former Curator of Textiles at the Victoria and Albert Museum, **Natalie Rothstein**, died earlier this year at the age of 79. She did a degree in the Spitalfields silk industry and much of what we all now learn about textiles is due to her freely giving of her knowledge and research to any student and the information now with the V&A. Did you know that you can visit the home of a former Huguenot silk weaver in Spitalfields? **Denis Sever's House** is at 18 Folgate Street, E1. And each floor depicts the work and living conditions of Mr Sever. Open only on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and Mondays (booking essential) of each month. A taste of what to expect can be found on www.denissevershouse.co.uk. For a sight of mechanised silk weaving you have water powered machinery doing just that at Hampshire's own **Whitchurch Silk Mill**.

Two Berkshire (former) watermills are now for sale: **Tidmarsh Mill**, on the River Pang, is famous for its brush with the Bloomsbury Set artist, Dora Carrington, has its waterwheel encased in glass but no other machinery existing. Asking Price: £1,995,000. **Sol Mill, Cookham**, became a recording studio under the ownership of legendary recording engineer, Gus Dudgeon; the likes of Cliff Richard and Elton John are amongst the rock luminaries to have recorded tracks there. Asking Price: £3million. It's believed that all machinery was removed long ago.



1 Daughter of Tidmarsh Miller James Drew visited the mill in 2008



Tidmarsh Mill in 2008
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