

Hampshire Mills Group Newsletter



No. 83 Winter 2008

www.hampshiremills.org

registered charity number 1116607

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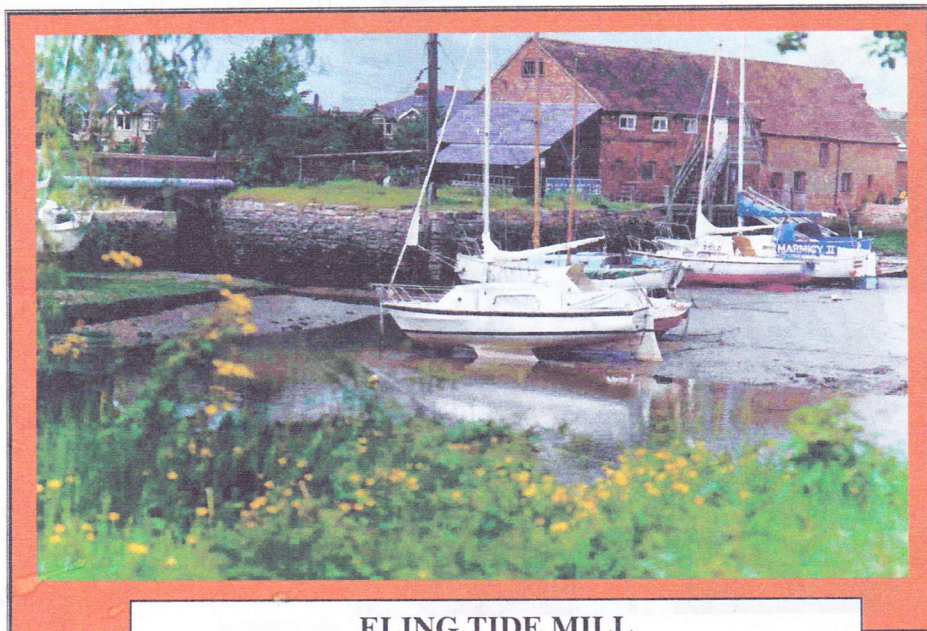
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ELING TIDE MILL

HMG Dates for your Diary - 2008-9

Saturday 13th December - Winter Meeting -14 00 16 00 hrs - Venue The Sailing Club Eling Totton (Attached to Eling Tide Mill)

Why not arrive early and visit the Eling Heritage Centre. Have a look at the exhibition and have some refreshments in the excellent cafe

March 14th Spring Afternoon meeting 14 00 16 00 hrs Venue TBA

April 25th South east region industrial archaeology Conference Venue The Guildhall Winchester Hosted by H.I.A.S. Details available on www.hias.org.uk

June 26th Summer Evening Meeting Venue TBA

Sept. 18th Autumn Evening Meeting Venue TBA

Dec 12th Winter Afternoon Meeting 14 00 16 00 hrs Venue TBA

If you have (or know of) a venue that you would like to share with the members of HMG for any future meetings, please let our Chairman know.

HMG Committee Meetings 2009 -(all Thursdays)

February 12th May 21st August 20th November 12th If there are specific items that you wish the committee to consider, prior to the next members meeting, please advise the Chairman or Secretary in advance

For up to the minute diary dates please check our web site

www.hampshiremills.org

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Hampshire Mills Group.

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FRONT COVER PHOTO by David Plunkett

From the Chattering Damsel at the Editor's Desk

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SHEILA WITH HER LONGBRIDGE TEAM MATE
BILL (THE BAGGER) ALLFORD

"See, a giant am I" so starts a poem about a windmill by Hilaire Belloc. Well, I may not be a giant but I have become a human windmill since taking over the Editor's post from Ros Plunkett. A human windmill? Yes, an out of control one in a tornado at times, as a welter of printed off emails, downloaded articles, scribbled notes from phone calls, photographs and drawings are hourly swept up, scattered, then sorted only to be lost again in the hunt for something else as my arms flail wildly. So, I hope you will approve of and enjoy what has gradually come together for my first edition. I am indebted to Ros Plunkett for easing me into "the Chair" and I know that she is enjoying the fruits of her parting gift (a garden centre gift voucher) already.

It was when I joined the planning department at Wokingham Borough Council in 2001, that I learned of the Hampshire Mills Group and immediately became a member of the monthly milling team at Longbridge Mill. Retirement has meant that I can give more time to whatever is happening within HMG, plus, a couple of days a week are spent at the Mills Archive Trust in Reading as a volunteer, helping to catalogue the huge amount of memorabilia and collections for anyone to access on the internet.

Recently I attended the SPAB Autumn Lecture which gave me a marvellous opportunity to meet many people whose lives have been dedicated to recording and saving mills of all kinds over the last fifty years. Kent Mills were the day's theme and a prominent feature was Alan Stoyel's presentation co-ordinated with the launch of his new book on Kent watermills which he started photographing and recording as a child. You will find details of this book in our **Reading Matters** article and I am pleased to say that Mick Edgeworth has already got a copy in the **HMG Library**. A full, updated list of all the items held in the Library for members to borrow, free of charge, will be sent with the Spring newsletter to all members but, if you have access to the internet, you can peruse this on our website: www.hampshiremills.org. Ashok Vaidya regularly updates what I find is an entertaining and informative website and I am delighted to find articles about the history of bread, including one by our Archivist, Tony Yoward currently on the **Snippets** page.

Talking of which, **Flour Power** is a new Newsletter item inviting you to send in a favourite recipe you would like to share. I am collecting **Poems** which refer to, mention or relate to mills and the one published in this issue was in a sheaf of articles passed to me from Ros; it was handwritten and presumably sent in by an HMG member - would that person please let me know who you are? It was new to me and I enjoyed the guessing game it plays with the reader.

Sharing is to be the keyword throughout each Newsletter so please send in all sorts of news, whether it's a mill for sale, let as a holiday home or an active mill to visit or a poem or song relating to mills; maybe you are a mill owner so tell us what's going on - in or around it, how you cope with living around machinery or floods, or perhaps you've just had some repair or restoration work done. I would be so delighted if you send something in - and if you don't feel like writing, you could always invite me for a cup of tea to tell me all about it and I'll do the writing!

Christmas present buying will no doubt be gaining fever pitch in your household at the time you receive this Newsletter, so, what could be easier to choose for that active adult you know of who wants to channel their energy into a useful way and make their own mark in history, than by giving a subscription to the **Hampshire Mills Group**? Learning to mill, work party repairs and restoration, tour guiding visitors or bagging up flour - it all happens in our Group! We've included membership forms to make life even easier but if you need even more, please contact our **Membership Secretary, Lyn Peet**. Contact details can be found on the front page in the left hand column.

I hope to meet many of you at our meeting, but in case you cannot make it, I wish you all a very, merry Christmas and New Year. Sheila

A Chairman's Christmas Cheer

Well, here we are, a year on from the bitterly cold day at Beaulieu which saw the inauguration of me to the Chairman's role and John Silman exalted to the new position of Honorary President after more than thirty years in the "Hotseat". John has enjoyed his "retirement from active office" but, as his Diary Notes show, he has been far from inactive, continuing his presentations and representing HMG at shows and lecture days held by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

Outings that many members have enjoyed this year started in February with a visit to The Mills Archive Trust in Reading to see how an electronic national collection is being evolved from the individual collections of many mills enthusiasts, amassed over the last half century or so. MAT shared with us a page in the August edition of the BBC's magazine, "Who Do You Think You Are" and we were thrilled to be declared their star website for family history research; this is down to the relentless years of painstaking research by our stalwart member, Tony Yoward and his late wife, Mary plus Ashok Vaidya's excellent website design. Very well done all of you.

The impressive Victorian buildings of Twyford Water Works were opened especially for our March meeting. For the June evening meeting we were all invited by John & Janet Hammond to their beautiful home, Durley Mill. A bonus visit arose in July as our Webmaster, Ashok Vaidya and his wife Jane, threw their gardens and art studio open to the public under the National Gardens Scheme. Many HMG members took advantage of this and were privileged to be shown the dormant turbine that Ashok is determined to get working again. We also saw Ashok's impressive model railway layout. July also saw us visit Crofton Beam Engines and Pumps which were explained to us by Basil Hunt who used to be a volunteer there, which was followed by a visit to Wilton Windmill and then on to Crux Wind Engine.

May and September of course heralded the National Mills Weekend and National Heritage Weekend and some of our members once again happily showed the public over some of Hampshire's mills, explaining and demonstrating each of the mills' actions and former uses. The Eling Museum Cafe hosted September's A.G.M. and we were allowed to look over the Tide Mill before the meeting got under way. David Plunkett described the repairs carried out with the aid of some Heavy Gang Members to the sluice gate in the wheel pit earlier this year. Tony Yoward gave us a brief tour of the regions Tide mills. We return to Eling for our Winter Meeting on Saturday 13th December but this time it will be held in the Eling Sailing Club which used to be the granary for the mill so it will be interesting to see what's become of it.

After the excellent tour of Hereford watermills in early October I attended a C.O.G.S. meeting at Denver Windmill in Norfolk. This is a sub-committee of the SPAB Mills Section for the various regional groups to share any problems; it was quite lively, particularly as many seem to have poor communication levels with their local government councils regarding notification of planning applications relating to mills. HMG is very fortunate on the whole in having good, appreciative two-way communications with our local authorities but we don't rest on our laurels, keeping a "weather eye" out at all times. I always like to hear from members if they happen to hear of any developments, whether in their own area or elsewhere, so that we can remain watchful.

Longbridge Mill is having a 'make-over' from its new owners, Mitchell and Butler, before it reopens in December as a Vintage Inn and I look forward to a harmonious working relationship with them.

My thanks to all of the committee for their hard work in making the group as successful as it is.

I look forward to seeing you all at Eling and particularly welcoming our three new members but should you not be able to make it there I'll take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing, and very valuable, support and wish you all a very happy Festive Season.

Mick Edgeworth

PS Don't forget we need suggestions for Visits whether one day or longer and for places for the group to meet next year.

Presidential Notes

AUGUST 2008

9th I see from my nice new copy of the HMG Newsletter's Autumn issue, that Eleanor has done a report on the Hampshire Water Festival, which is much better than anything I might manage. Suffice to say that we were in the Memorial Park and many people visited us - if only to keep out of the rain! Seriously, we talked to many people. The new HMG stand, purchased with money donated by Tony Yoward in memory of his wife, was much easier to erect than previous equipment, and for years to come will remind us of the lovely Mary and her great contribution to the success of HMG. This 82nd issue of the Newsletter is the last to be edited by Ros. I thank her very much indeed for all her hard work over the last five and a half years and for a job well done; now you can spend more time in the garden. I welcome Sheila to the Editor's Chair, as she will be taking on production of the Newsletter. Thank you Sheila, for bravely stepping into the breach, to ensure continuity of this very important piece of armoury in the battle to raise the profile of the group.

24th Milling day at Longbridge has come around again and I pay tribute to all the regulars who turn up every month to turn out a really good grade of wholemeal flour. Thanks to all of them and, Dear Reader, why not learn how to operate a mill - then I could "skive off" now and again? As well as milling there's maintenance to be done, to the machinery and the head and tail races need frequent clearing - so COME ON - if you like a bit of action you'll enjoy it very much!

SEPTEMBER

6th I was looking forward to accompanying John Lovell to his stand at Alresford Show on Saturday and Heyshott Show on Sunday. So, I drove to John bright and early and we went in his Land Rover to Alresford showground only to discover from the gate steward that the show had been abandoned. As John had

delivered his trailer to the site on the Friday, we drove (in 4wheel drive) down the sea of mud that was the showground; we collected the trailer loaded with John's mill models and we returned to Lords Farm just in time to hear that Heyshott Show for Sunday had been cancelled as well. Ah well, there's always next year! Thanks John - an A+ for effort!!

8th I was called by Phil Newman (Agent for de la Rue) ref work on Quidhampton Mill. We hope to carry out a further survey before roof work on the mill. Mick and I looked at the mill last year. It still has a full set of equipment inside and two waterwheels. Further details soon.

9th I spoke to Basingstoke Townswomen's Guild resulting in a donation to HMG.

10th Spent a very pleasant evening addressing The Micheldever Society on the subject of "Milling History". This resulted in a very generous donation to group funds.

14th National Heritage weekend. Eleanor and I manned Hockley Mill and had a very disappointingly low number (20) of visitors. Basil and Fred were at Chase Mill and I have not found out yet how they got on.

19th HMG AGM and quarterly meeting, this time at Eling Tide Mill, kindly arranged by Dave Plunkett. Prior to the meeting Dave ran the mill for us; we were also shown the Sailing Clubhouse, which is in what used to be the Grain Store, following conversion. I hope we may be able to hire or borrow it for social meetings at a future date. Tonight we used the café in the Heritage Centre. Before the business meeting set off, Tony Yoward was good enough to give us a guided tour, via slide presentation, over a number of Hampshire Tide Mills including Cams Mill at Fareham which, it is hoped, might yet become a restaurant with the same profile as the original mill.

Presidential Notes

27th Milling day is here again for

Longbridge Mill. A pretty busy day with a good number of people visiting the mill. Four sacks of grain milled by Mick, Andy, Fred, Basil, Brian and yours truly. We missed Sheila in the weighing and bagging corner but she was off celebrating her birthday "up in town".

28th I had the pleasure today to go with our member, John Lovell, to the show at Kingsfold in Surrey. John took three of his model mills; we set them up on his trailer and they caused considerable interest, especially the scale model of Dock Mill in Southsea, which towered above everything else in our section of the show. A very pleasant day in good weather with good company. I would recommend this show to anyone wanting a day out at the end of the show season.

OCTOBER

2nd to 5th These dates cover the period of HMG's visit to Hereford. We were entertained and directed by, Alan and Critchell and I for one enjoyed every moment of the stay in a very rural county. I will say no more than express my very great thanks to Alan and Critchell as I understand other pens are writing up the visit, whose prose is far better than mine.

9th A.M. I spoke on the subject of milling to an organization at New Milton called "Action on Pain" which advises on and treats chronic pain.

P.M. To Basingstoke to hear Brian Eighteen speak on the "Mills of the River Loddon". I enjoyed Brian's talk very much and found it most interesting.

15th Went to see Tony Yoward who kindly printed off some photographs from his collection of Shears Mill for a talk I am giving to the Bishopstoke Society tomorrow.

16th Addressed the Bitterne Mens' Club on the subject of the History of the Postcard.

21st The local branch of Age Concern were given *The History of the British Canal System*.

I spoke to Bishopstoke Society about the problems we had encountered with the twin turbines at the site of Bishopstoke's mill. With much help from Tony, I was able to give them some times (in years) and some names connected to the mill and, I hope, encouraged them to visit the Hampshire Record Office to do some of their own research.

31st Following my talk to the Bishopstoke Society, and my request to the members for pictures of Shears Mill, their secretary very kindly sent me several photographs of Barton Mill; there were also some of the miller's house at Shears Mill from different angles, clearly showing how close the house was to the mill itself. Many thanks, Joan, for your help. The photographs have been given to Tony for inclusion in his information on the mill.

NOVEMBER

6th HMG Committee meeting at Ashley Close, Winchester.

8th I attended the SPAB meeting at UCL London and was able to introduce Sheila - our new Newsletter Editor - to some of the people present, in between selling second-hand books. The meeting was interesting and the auditorium fairly comfortable but I was very disappointed with the lunch/tea arrangements - they were definitely **not** value for money.

John Silman

*****MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS*****

Lyn Peet, our Membership Secretary, writes:

Here I am again, demanding your money!! But really, it's all in a good cause - membership of the Hampshire Mills Group that covers so many aspects of milling for us, and future generations, to enjoy and learn. So, bring out your cash or cheque, renew standing orders, and remember that by Gift Aiding your subscription you allow HMG to save a bit of tax.

I will be at the December meeting for anyone who would like to pay then (and sign a Gift Aid form). This saves postage on the receipts although payments in advance are always welcome.

Remember our fees have increased to:

£10.50 Hampshire residents.

£7.00 Out of County plus £1.00 for additional persons at the same address.

NEW MEMBERS

David Bonser may already be a familiar name to many HMG members as a volunteer miller and guide at Winchester City Mill. We bid David a very warm welcome to our Group along with Phillip Chesshyre and David Millen.

We have to say farewell to Maureen Fulker who finds she does not have the same interest now that Bob has gone so we wish her well for the future.

IDENTITY UNKNOWN



This is an untitled photograph which your Chattering Damsel came across at a postcard fair. It's an oddly cut size and stuck onto paper. Do **you** know anything about it? Please let Sheila in on it's secrets.

Stark House Farm



STARK FARM MILLSTONE

Frances directed us to a head-high patch of nettles which she said contained the remaining machinery and millstones. Indeed it did. As you can see, the intrepid team located a substantial layshaft with pulleys. They then set about uncovering the millstones. One had been used as an ornamental feature outside the farmhouse, and this was fairly easy to locate. It was clearly a bedstone, and a runner stone of similar dimensions (4ft diameter) was quickly located in the nettles. Then a smaller and rather deep runner stone (3ft 9in diameter) was also unearthed – but no matching bedstone. As can be seen from the accompanying photo, this stone had an inverted rynd, and looked as if it had been made for a stone spindle situated above the stone (overdrift).



MICK & ALISON CLEARING
MILLSTONE

A few months ago the investigative team from HMG visited Stark House Farm, at Headley near Newbury. John Silman had noticed the remains of a sack hoist and hopper in a large barn which was undergoing extensive restoration. The owner, Frances Paget, explained that before 1934 the building had been used by the Brown's, who ran a business doing contract work supplying threshing equipment to local farmers. Out of season they apparently used the equipment to drive a mill in the barn.



FRED & BASIL CLEARING UNDERGROWTH

Basil Hunt promised to return the next day to label the individual stones in case it becomes necessary to move them; and we volunteered to help with the move when asked. In the mean time, Mick Edgeworth hopes to find more information in the Record Office.

So, as is usually the case in these situations, we were left with several unanswered questions: where is the matching bedstone? were the stones acquired second-hand? were any of the stones used in the barn? (There are no remains of other fixtures.) are there any more treasures hiding in the nettles? Probably not, but it was a fun day out.

READING MATTERS

Some books to whet your appetite for looking at, thinking about, and eating the results from, mills:

readingmatters-readingmatters-readingmatters

The Enduring Journey of the USS Chesapeake: Navigating the Common History of the Three Nations by **Chris Dickon** pub. The History Press July 2008/ ISBN 1596292989. £13.72. Collaboration with HMG members, Tony Yoward and John Silman, has helped author, Chris Dickon, to become a finalist in the USA National Best Books 2008 Awards. Tony and John were able to supply knowledge and research regarding the Chesapeake Mill in Wickham which shares a unique history with the old warship. Not reviewed yet, its 160 pages are bound to make for fascinating and compulsive reading. **Congratulations Chris, John and Tony.** Check out this website for more news about Chesapeake Mill: www.chesapeakemill.co.uk; or telephone 01329-834078 for visiting details.

readingmatters-readingmatters-readingmatters

Guiding the HMG Hereford Tour in October coincided with a very special event for **Alan Stoyel** as he was also preparing for the launch of his latest book, **Memories of Kentish Watermills: The Rivers Cray and Darent**. ISBN 978-1-84306-418-3 Price: £10. Published by Landmark Collector's Library, it is already in the HMG Library! A photographic recollection mostly from the 1950's with earlier postcard scenes and good descriptions.

readingmatters-readingmatters-readingmatters

British Windmills : A Bibliographical Guide by **Guy Blythman 2008** Obtainable from the author price £5 incl. p&p @ 32 Lindsay Court, Garrett Avenue, Shepperton, Middx. TW17 8AF. Contents :- includes Books & Leaflets, Journal Articles, Newspaper & Magazine Articles, Papers, Thesis, Unpublished Manuscripts, Reports & Surveys. Divided by Individual mills, County & Regional Mill publications, General Articles, Unpublished works, Other works containing information on windmills, Works on personalities connected with windmills, Millers & millwrighting. Guy is to be congratulated on his comprehensive work that must have taken many hours to produce. My only comment: to me an index must be complete, I don't like an index that relies on a readers geographical knowledge. References occur under a town but not indexed under the county. M.E.

readingmatters-readingmatters-readingmatters

The Power and Glory of Waterwheels by **Jeff Hawksley 2008** SPAB Mills Section £3.50 + £1.00 p&p from SPAB . The 9th Rex Wailes Memorial Lecture presented at University College London. ISBN 978-1-898856-28-3. Congratulations to Jeff on producing his book that will lead mill enthusiasts to a better understanding of the development of waterwheels and the improvements that took place over time. this is a book that should be read by all persons that are interested in the history of watermills since it does not contain any mathematics although it presents the conclusions of calculations on the efficiency of the various designs. M.E.

readingmatters-readingmatters-readingmatters

Devon Leather : An outline history of a lost industry : 19th century tanners and tanneries. by **Martin Bodman 2008** ISBN 978-0-954758-1-7 Published by Leat Press £28 + £1.50 p&p from SPAB. A very comprehensive book excellently illustrated with maps, photographs, map reference, period of operation, etc. I was left wishing that he had included a fuller description of the processes involved. How is a skin divided into an inner and outer ? M.E.

readingmatters-readingmatters-readingmatters

Boat Mills in Europe From Early Medieval to Modern Times
Written By Daniela Gräf, translated by M. Harverson & L. van der Drift.

Published by The International Molinology Society (TIMS)
A4 Firmback, 368 pages, 484 illustrations, ISBN 3 - 910008 - 73 - 9

DANIELA GRÄF

Boat Mills in Europe
from Early Medieval
to Modern Times



The breadth and depth of the research for this book is such that it deserves to be appreciated by a much wider audience and so it has now been translated and published in English. After an introduction to water-power and watermills in general, the sources for boat mill information such as documents, maps, plans, drawings and paintings are described and copiously illustrated. Boat mills were probably distributed on all major European rivers and many of their tributaries, apart from in Scandinavia.

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MILLS FEAST IN JUTLAND

On previous visits to Denmark, we had visited a number of mills, including two in South Jutland – Højer and Dybøll, both of which appear in most guidebooks to the area.

However, a recent trip revealed a cluster of three mill sites of great interest, plus another which is worth further investigation.

The island of Als is on the east coast of South Jutland, very close to the border with Germany. It is only just an island at all – the road bridge which crosses is very short – probably not as long as that joining Portsea Island to the remainder of Hampshire. Als is, however, rather different from the surrounding area. Miles of winding roads link pretty villages with picturesque churches and cottages, and the place has an air of tranquillity.

Our first stop was Vibæk mill complex. The windmill of 1738, though in good condition externally, lacks its sweeps, and we suspect, its machinery. However, it provides a pleasant backdrop for the other buildings, barn, stables, privy and watermill.

The watermill, dating from 1756, and the last survivor of ten watermills once on Als, was last restored in 1956/7, having ceased operation in the late 1930s, and retains all its machinery, although work would be needed in order for it to function. We were welcomed by posters advertising Denmark's National Mills Day, which had taken place some two months earlier, and all the buildings were open for visitors to freely wander round. In the mill are some beautifully crafted drawings, made at the time of its restoration.

Next, we drove north a few miles, to see the windmill at Elstrup. This mill, dating from 1859, was first erected at Østerholm, but later moved to its present location. Like Vibæk, it was open but with no one around, but has been preserved as a mill museum. It was the last of its kind to be built in Denmark. The mill machinery is intact, but of almost as much interest are the extra exhibits – hand mills, the equipment for printing the designs on sacks for flour, items associated with millstone production, and various models.

The last mill was another windmill at Hvanbjerg. This fine smock mill dates from 1835, and was restored in the late 1960s having become disused in 1961, and was further renovated in the 1990s. Sadly this was not open on the day we were there (only on Wednesdays and Saturdays), but we enjoyed its setting and its thatched exterior. It is now owned by a Charitable Foundation. So far as we could establish, it no longer produces flour.

In Sonderburg, where Als meets the rest of Denmark, the town mill stands resplendent. A notice advises that tours are possible by contacting the local council. But time had beaten us ... so maybe on a future visit... Pam Moore



MILLING ABOUT IN THE MARCHES

Hidden gems were revealed to Hampshire Mills Group members on their trip encompassing northern parts of Herefordshire and southwest Shropshire, at the beginning of October. A man steeped in the industrial heritage of the area, Alan Stoyel kept up an informative commentary as he guided us to over twenty watermills and solitary waterwheels in secluded places throughout the four day tour of the area known as "The Marches".

Based on the town of Kington where he lives, Alan organized memorable visits to watermills which had been worked in a variety of forms and uses, and in varying stages of dereliction, mid-restoration, fully restored and some in a state of limbo. Ownership varied from "caretakers" to enthusiastic restorers which led us to meeting an interesting mix of characters, all charming, welcoming, knowledgeable and helpful and each was delighted to receive a 2Kg bag of Longbridge Mill flour, milled by HMG members, proudly presented by our President, John Silman.

After a welcoming cuppa at Alan and Critchell's home on the Thursday afternoon, the tour kicked off with a walk around six sites in Kington itself. This small market town, at the foot of Hergest Ridge and situated on the Offa's Dyke Path, held several surprises as Alan unveiled its prosperous past. **Meredith's**, a nail making foundry, became the largest local employer when it was built following the construction of a horse-drawn tramway from Brecon in 1820. Fulling, weaving, clover and corn mills, and a tannery, were joined by the foundry in utilizing the two natural waterways serving the town, the River Arrow and the Back Brook. Contrasting with the diminutive mills now private residences, **Arrow Lodge Mill** is an impressive industrial complex complete with maltings, bakery and a miller's house surrounding the large mill building. In the Turner family for over 200 years, this was formerly the town corn mill but it now warehouses wholesale animal feed. Far from its Hampshire origins, an Armfield 35" British Empire turbine was to be seen; it replaced the waterwheel's power early in the 20th century. Floodgates, Crooked Well and Crabtree Mills have their histories well recorded and so Alan was able to help the group envisage a bustling, busy and industrious town. Last on the list, **Hergest Mill** is being extensively restored and was of dual interest as the mill house was home to Andy Fish and Bill Allford for the duration of the trip.

Our first full day found us over the border at the fascinating **Clun Mill, Shropshire**. A ¾ mile long leat system diverted from the quaintly named River Unk used to power this stone walled mill, perched up a hillside. Now without a water supply it has been converted to use as a Youth Hostel though much of the machinery, stones and turbine remain intact. The reaction type turbine was of particular interest, bearing a plate inscribed "Whitelaw & Stirrat's Patent - No. LXIX Made by Randolph Elliot & Co. Glasgow" making it a rare one of its kind. The Armfield Company was evident again here but this time in the form of a dressing and scalping machine installed in 1892 along with a Eureka smutter. The lower floor of a drying kiln was viewed, with the chimney duly peered up, but the drying floor itself is now turned into a dormitory. The varied industrial life of this mill, with so much of its integrity still in tact proved an exciting taster to a bewildering array of ingenuity and opportunism put to productive use. Our minibus, built for genteel town short trips, gallantly tackled the bumpy, narrow single lanes and tracks which led us to a restored overshot 12ft waterwheel beside a barn. **Weston Farm, Stowe's** wheel's diameter had originally been 8ft 6" and had been powered by a small tributary of the River Teme. Kamakazi pheasants provided some amusing entertainment as we jolted and wiggled our way on to **Stapleton Castle Court** where we were met with very welcome refreshment by the owners, Trefor and Margaret Griffiths. They are currently investigating the potential for Hydro-power. Previously, an underground 18ft overshot waterwheel had been powered by a buried cast iron pipeline fed by a pond (now restored) but had been abandoned in favour of a Gilkes 12" turbine in 1927.

Continued on Page 11

MILLING ABOUT IN THE MARCHES

Continued from page 10

Our unladen minibus had to have a couple of runs at the knobbly incline out of the Griffiths' property; needless to say we all heaved a sigh of relief but were all just as reluctant to leave this idyllic spot. Driver Silman, however, seemed to be having a field day displaying his skill as a rally driver!

Ian Lawson's diversity of projects and interests proved of great fascination as well as **Aymestrey Mill** which he is largely restoring himself. Following a fire in 1880, a new brick mill replaced the former pair of corn mills astride the leat from the River Lugg. Each had its own wheel but the new mill was fitted with a single breast waterwheel which was worked until sometime in the 1960s; the wheel, machinery and 3 pairs of Burr stones remain. Like many other corn mills, apples would also be mashed here, ready for pressing to make cider. Originally a 1930s Mann printing press had also been powered by water but later by means of a secondhand Armfield turbine which still produces electricity. Formerly producing fine art prints, Ian now turns his hand to crafting replacement mill parts. His workshop was lined with nostalgic, ancient, petrol pump "heads" and other motoring memorabilia, whilst outside, a horse-drawn, ledger type van awaits its turn at restoration.

Mortimer's Cross Mill at Lucton dates from 1750 and proved yet another "odd kettle of fish" for alongside it, had been a paper mill sharing the same leat until the early 19th century. Evidence of it exists on the 1840 Tithe Map. Our tour guide, Alan Stoyel, deftly set up the corn mill to function in his role of miller (on behalf of English Heritage's maintenance and management agreement) and milled a sack of flour. Not only is **Mortimer's Cross Mill** a Listed Building, but also a Scheduled Monument which apparently causes a few headaches for its owner, Chris Partington. It was the only workable, water-powered corn mill in Herefordshire on the whole of the tour and brought to a close, in a suitable and satisfying way, our first very full day which covered a large geographical area with an astounding variety of mills, wheels and their histories.

Part 2 of this memorable tour will follow in the Spring edition of the Newsletter.

More technical details of each mill can be found in the Handbook prepared for the tourees with descriptions by Alan Stoyel. Please contact Andy Fish if you wish to purchase a copy. Andy is working on a copy of the handbook for HMG Library complete with extensive photographs of each mill so that an exacting record is kept for posterity.

READING MATTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Boat Mills in Europe From Early Medieval to Modern Times

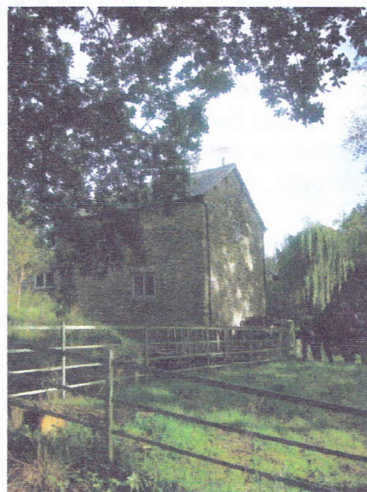
The author has identified by name 695 locations, principally on the Seine, Loire, Garonne, Rhône, Rhine, Weser, Elbe, Oder, Danube, Tisza, Drava, Po and their tributaries, (even including the Thames) on which one or more boat mills have existed at one time or another. A comparison of the characteristics of the boat mills on the various rivers over the centuries is made, resulting in a new typology.

The finds from recent archaeological excavations of boat mill sites are discussed and the few remaining boat mills, together with a number of recently reconstructed boat mills are highlighted. The construction, equipment and operation of this type of mill is explored as well as the accidents caused by flood water, drifting ice and sometimes acts of war! A comprehensive gazetteer covers all the known boat mill sites with extensive illustrations, textual sources and artifacts drawn from all over Europe, from Portugal on the Atlantic to Georgia on the Black Sea. The subject has never previously been explored in print in such authoritative detail. It goes without saying that this important work concludes with full sources and an extensive bibliography. This book makes a significant contribution to our knowledge of the history of technology in a European context and is thoroughly recommended reading for all mill enthusiasts

Price £25, plus £5 p&p From TIMS, 14 Falmouth Road, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 3BH
Please make cheques payable to "The International Molinological Society"



ALAN STOYEL AT
MORTIMERS CROSS MILL



MORTIMERS CROSS MILL



JOHN PRESENTS IAN LAWSON
WITH LONGBRIDGE FLOUR



IAN LAWSON AT AYMESTREY MILL



CLUN MILL TURBINE



LEEN FARM WATERWHEEL
HIDDEN IN HEDGE



CAROLE CHECKS THE GEARING AT
AYMESTREY MILL



NAME PLATE ON CLUN MILLSTONE



MORTIMER'S CROSS MILL OWNER
CHRIS PARTINGTON



AYMESTREY MILL



WESTON FARM STOWE

POETS CORNER

GONE

By Anthony Thwaite

*Down in the dark water
Where the quick mill-race flows
Something hidden rises
Something secret goes.*

*Rising, it flashes whitely
Going, it sinks below
You cannot recognise it
You see the water flow*

*Quickly under the mill-race
Race down and reach the pond
Whatever you have seen there
Goes on and out, beyond.*

*Your vision or your knowledge,
Untethered to one place.
It glints, and hints, and teases,
And shows you your own face.*

*Peering below the sluice-gate,
Watching the mill-race fall
Forever and forever,
With not a word at all.*

*Of what you saw - or fancied
You saw - rise up and sink
One moment in the water
The next - over the brink.*

FLOUR POWER



The Hereford Tourers enjoyed the results of this Recipe, courtesy of Critchell Britten.

Herefordshire Apple Cake

From Monkland Dairy Cheese makers.

You need: 7" or 8" Round Tin.
Cream 8 oz each butter & soft brown sugar
Mix together 8 oz self raising flour and
2 tsp baking powder. Add to creamed stuff.
Mix together 14 oz grated apple,
4 oz sultanas and 1 tsp cinnamon.
Stir half this mixture into cake mix.
Put half the cake mix into the tin and
Top with remaining apple mixture. Cover all
With rest of cake mix.
Bake at 170 - 180 deg For 1½ hours;
suggest you check after 1 hour
To gauge total baking time.

*Share your favorite flour based recipe
Naming the flour and the mill which
Produced it.*

*This website has some good recipes:
www.shipton-mill.com.*



WHY NOT STOCK UP WITH STONEGROUND FLOUR WHILE AT
ELING TIDE MILL!!!!

The Reconstruction of Eling Tide Mill

The following paragraphs are a brief summary of the main phases of the original reconstruction project, from September 1975 to the summer of 1979. This 2008 issue has been revised due to changes in time and to correct some of the facts

Winchester College owned the mill from medieval times and granted their miller tenants the lucrative right to collect tolls from people and vehicles using the causeway between Totton and Eling Hill. The causeway is the justification for the Tide Mill as it effectively bisects the lower reaches of Bartley Water. The 'great hatches' or sea sluice gates, were lowered to impound the water of the high tide and so allowed the water wheels to turn once the tide had ebbed on the seaward side. The mill could then normally work for about four hours a day, throughout the year.

The New Forest District Council purchased the causeway site from Winchester College in 1975 and has continued the practice of charging a toll for using the causeway - visitors beware! The mill building was found to be in very poor structural condition, particularly the undercroft which is open to the rising tide where the lower floor and hurst frame timbers were decayed and on the point of collapse.

Work at the mill began in early 1976 with two phases of steel propping. The first props were installed to support the worst parts of the fabric and so make the building as safe as possible for volunteers from the Totton and Eling Historical Society, to tackle the dusty and dirty job of cleaning the mill. All small mill items were removed for storage and safe keeping at this stage and a photographic survey was undertaken before a number of badly decayed and infested softwood partitions and cladding were stripped out.

The second phase of steel propping resulted from our concern that the walls of the mill were no longer capable of adequately bearing the weight of its roof. This necessitated the use of hundreds of props, braced with scaffold tubes, to construct a framework within the building that could carry the weight of the roof and floors, independent of the walls. Hence a stable platform was created for the next step in the project: the reconstruction of the roof timbers and its wall plates. We were fortunate enough to be guided through this phase of the project by Lionel Collins of Brockenhurst. He organized our volunteers during the weekends and evenings of a six-week period of July and August 1976, to undertake this work including the replacement of most of the roof's internal lining. This was a tremendous achievement, as most of the volunteer workforce was unskilled. It was also very enjoyable to work on the mill roof during those long hot, summer evenings.

The roofing contractor, Messrs. Roberts Adlard, phased the re-tiling to fit in with the roof repairs and timber treatment for woodworm and fungal decay. Portable spraying equipment, chemical fluids and long term guarantee against re-infestation to the roof was provided by Phoenix Preservation Limited, under the direction of David Plunkett, who has been involved since the beginning of this project.

A Job Creation team undertook the next phase of the restoration project in April 1977, stabilizing the foundations, replacing the rotten ground floor timbers and constructing a series of unobtrusive wall piers to provide permanent support for the floors and roof. It was fortunate that their work period was extended from the original six months to a year, and in the end continued until December 1978. Len Rule was foreman in charge of the six young labourers for most of this period, and then Jim Lewis was brought in as carpenter/foreman. This reflected the shift away from bricks and mortar and Jim continued with the project as craftsman/carpenter beyond the autumn of 1979.

Then Jim became employed by Eling Tide Mill Trust Limited, a charitable trust which was established in October 1978 and represents a major step in the evolution of the project. The Trust was sponsored by the New Forest District Council but is an independent company of local people, including members of the Totton and Eling Historical Society and the several Councils in the area. The Trust created two honorary posts: a Surveyor to the Fabric and a Surveyor to the Mill Machinery; held by Colin Thompson and Gavin Bowie respectively. This reflected the dual nature of the project at this stage, as the internal machinery is an integral part of the structure of this mill building.

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The Reconstruction of Eling Tide Mill

Continued from page 14

Eling Tide Mill is a "double mill" where two separate waterwheels, in the centre of the building, work independent sets of similar machinery; it was decided to restore one set to working order and leave the other as a static display. The west set of machinery was selected, as it was in better condition than the other, and a number of engineering firms and millwrights were invited to give estimates for the work, which was envisaged to commence during the autumn of 1978. It was decided to split the specification between two firms, directing each in a way which would be to the best advantage of the project. That meant Ernest Hole and Son Limited of Horsham, were restoring the waterwheel, the main gearing and building the external sea hatches. Dorothea Restoration Engineers Limited of Bristol, restoring the millstones and mill furniture, including the new construction of a flour dresser. That was one of the most interesting parts of the project and was in progress during the summer of 1979.

Sunday work by volunteers continued, subject to tidal movement, led by David Plunkett. This small group of people was responsible for most of the sub-tidal restoration to the headrace, breastwork and undercroft, together with brickwork by Bill White of the Southampton University Industrial Archaeology Group. Due to the very limited time available at low water, modern technology was put to use with products from Phoenix Preservation Limited and Sealocrete Products, both of Southampton. New constructional brickwork to the entrance annex, mill and sea hatches, was expertly carried out by Tizzard & Sims of Totton. Mr Tom Mackrell, the last miller at Eling Tide Mill, used to be called in regularly to see how work was progressing, and gave us invaluable assistance and advice.

Eling Tide Mill Trust began a major fund-raising campaign in the October of 1979 which led to the mill being fully restored to grind grain again and be opened as a working mill museum in May 1980 - **England's only working tide mill.**

Revised by David Plunkett, for Eling Tide Trust, October 2008

Originally produced by:
David Plunkett & Gavin Bowie, August 1979

Since this news information was produced by Gavin and myself in 1979, many years have passed and we have been open to the public since May 1980. Many tonnes of grain have been milled and many bags of wholemeal flour turned into loaves of bread, baked in many homes throughout Hampshire and further afield. After all this time, we believe we are still **the only regularly productive tide mill in the world.** We are open all year round. Your continued patronage is essential to ensure future visitors have this historic working building to see for many years to come.

David Plunkett
October 2008

A one day course for SPAB Mills Section, endorsed by Dave Plunkett, is to be held at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Sussex. Titled: ***Maintaining Your Watermill*** the date for it is ***Friday 24th April 2009.*** Essential topics to be covered include: Spotting problems; Environmental issues; Historic sites for hydro-generation plus advice on Health and Safety. Costing £95, all profits will go to the SPAB Mills Section's Repair Fund. For further details or to book yourself on this course write to: Simon Hudson, SPAB Mills Section, 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY, telephone 020 7456 0909 or email: millsinfo@spab.org.uk

Tail Race ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Frustrated with all the websites being quoted?

Did you know that you don't need to own a computer to see our website - or anything else (legal) on the internet? Your local Library is the place to go; you will be helped by the librarians to who will guide you and what better website than your own group one, **www.hampshiremills.org**, to start off with, so go on, try it! You will see that other websites, e.g. Windmill World or The Mills Archive or SPAB can be accessed by links from **www.hampshiremills.org**. The librarian could also help you to set up an email address and will show you how to send messages - why, you could send your first email to me the address is -

chatteringdamsel@googlemail.com



Have you heard about the **Young Millers Club**? Hosted by SPAB, what a fun Christmas present for your grandchild, niece or nephew, a subscription to this would prove to be! No *run of the mill* club this - for instance, who else would get the chance to produce their own flour to take home?. All under strict adult guidance of course! Joining leaflets will be available at the Winter meeting at Eling - or else contact Simon Hudson at SPAB. His contact details are on the front of this newsletter.

Ron Cookson writes: we have set up a **BLOG SITE** called **Mill Writing** so that issues can be raised, announcements made, ask questions, state opinions on any mill related topic, at home or abroad on <http://www.millsarchivetrust.org/index.php/blogs>. Just browsing what others have written could while away an amusing hour! This adds another dimension to The Mills Archive as a live discourse and note board and truly brings Mills history up-to-date in the 21st Century.

Quizzical Corner



QUESTION 1: A famous British actor bought this mill near Windsor. Can you name him?

QUESTION 2: Where would you find a *Stonenut*?

QUESTION 3: Do you know the name of the lady who first sang "*There's an old mill by the stream, Nellie Dean*" ?

ANSWERS: All answers will be given at the Winter meeting at Eling and in the Spring Newsletter.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
