

Hampshire Mills Group Newsletter



No. 79 Winter 2007

www.hampshiremills.org

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Beaulieu Tide Mill - from the air - Aug. 1993. © T.Y.

HMG Dates for your Diary - 2008

Saturday 15th December 2007 - Winter Meeting, Hartford Suite, John Montague Building, Beaulieu 3:00pm to 5.00pm. It has been arranged for the group to visit the mill before the meeting. If interested, meet at the Mill at 2.00pm

1st January - The "Friends of King Alfred's Buses" will be running trips from Winchester's Broadway to Twyford Pumping Station via Hockley. (see page 10)

Saturday 15th March - 12.00 noon - Spring Meeting - venue to be advised

Friday 13th June - 7.30 pm - Summer Meeting - venue to be advised.

19 or 20 September - Autumn Meeting and AGM - venue to be advised.

12 or 13 December - Winter Meeting - venue to be advised.

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 2008

7th February, 8th May, 7th August & 6th November. 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.

Deadline for contributions to the Spring 2008 Newsletter

FRIDAY 22nd FEBRUARY

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

As you know, I only entered the field of molinology four years ago, when I married David. I don't have the knowledge to put a Newsletter together without significant support from the members. Last week (when I was very light on content) I put out an appeal to those members whose e-mail addresses I had, asking for articles, news, tales, anecdotes etc.. As you can see from this very full edition, the response was amazing. Thank you so much to all those who make my job a little more easy.

Update on Anne Finnigan - Anne is staying in a residence in Eastbourne near her daughter, while repairs are carried out at Pilcot Mill. Sadly Anne was in hospital when the rains came on 20th July, so she was unaware that her own home was affected by the flooding. We all hope that you will be back at Pilcot Mill very soon Anne. Ros

Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are due on January 1st. Please note the increase in fees as agreed at the AGM.

HAMPSHIRE	- Individual	£10.50 - Joint	£11.50
OUT OF COUNTY	- Individual	£ 7.00 - Joint	£ 8.00
CORPORATE	-	£17.50	

People with Standing Orders should have had a letter from me. If you haven't let, me know as a new bank mandate is necessary. Anyone whose advance payment ends this year will also attract the new fees and you should also have heard from me. I will be at the December meeting ready to process renewals. Remember, too, you can pay for several years in advance or by Standing Order. You can also help HMG by Gift-Aiding your membership. See you in December.

Lyn Peet

Lottery Boost for Turbines Project

This is an extract from an article in the Hampshire Chronicle dated - 15th November 2007

"Bishopstoke has won a £22,000 slice of lottery funding to replace a corrugated iron shed that houses historic water turbines. The grant means that long delayed plans to restore the turbines to working order and make them visible to the public could become reality within a year.

The shed housing the disused power plant, is to be replaced by a brick structure with viewing windows. "There will also be historical information on display so that people can watch and learn" said Parish Clerk, Peter Storey.

Supplied by Eleanor Yates

Chairmans Diary

Tuesday 21st August - Having been told that there appeared to be no-one in at Pilcot Mill, Margaret and I decided to have a look for ourselves, just to see that Anne Finnigan was OK.

When we arrived, we found a gentleman doing some gardening and from him we learned that Anne had fallen and was in Fleet Hospital. We were not able to see her that day so I contacted Ros & Dave who went to see her the next day. She has broken bones but, following an operation, is doing well.

Saturday 1st September - I spent the day with our member, John Lovell, exhibiting his Model Mills at Alresford Agricultural Show and very much interest they caused as we spent most of the day talking to enthusiastic members of the public. Thanks John for taking the trouble to attend this and other shows.

Sunday 2nd September - I attended an Open Day at Bursledon Windmill now that it is officially re-opened

after minor alterations to the working parts.

A very good day except for a little leg ache from running up and down the ladders in the mill.

Friday 7th September to Friday 14th September - ON HOLIDAY - Yes! Here was our chance to get to grips with my other particular interest besides Mills and that is Canals.

Great friends of ours have a time share in a canal boat and they kindly invite us to accompany them each year for a week's journey somewhere on the system. This year, it was the Coventry Canal and the Ashby Canal.

We met our friends (and the boat) at Alvecote on the Coventry Canal and, while I was getting the baggage on board, I managed to fall through the entrance hatch some four or so feet onto the cabin sole on my back. This was very painful and, for the rest of the week, I had to learn to sleep sitting up!

Chairman's Diary

However, we set off for Coventry along what's known as the "Bottom Road", which in working days was through a coalfield - destination, Coventry Terminal Basin. I had been warned by several people not to go to Coventry because of vandalism etc. but, when we arrived in the basin, we found it fully restored, in excellent order and it even had a statue of it's original designer for us to moor by. In fact, so good was the statue that I was tempted to hand James Brindley (for it is he) our forrad mooring line! We spent a whole day in Coventry and I was most impressed with the Cathedrals. They also have a tremendous Automobile Museum not to mention the best prices for food and drink in all Britain. All in all, a great success.

We went up the Ashby Canal to the present limit of navigation and looked for the location of the Battle of Bosworth Field. We found parts but not all and retired defeated. However, we had a most enjoyable week and look forward to next year.

Tuesday 18th September - I went with John Lovell and friends to our member John Sears house (at his request) to collect the mill he had made with two Indian Stones. John will hold the parts and we hope that the Heavy Gang will be able to restore it to working order.

Friday 21st September - Attended the SPAB Committee Meeting at Spital Square.

Saturday 29th September - Attended AGM of Hampshire Mills Group. Having served as Chairman of HMG for thirty years (and loved almost every minute of it) I decided it was time to take life just a little easier. I have therefore resigned as Chairman although I am sure I will still remain pretty busy.

Monday 8th October - I spoke to Porchester Mens Fellowship on the British Canal System and received a donation to the HMG.

Tuesday 9th October - Tony and I spoke to a meeting of the Surrey Industrial History Group at Guildford on the subject of Industrial Archaeology. Another donation to the HMG.

Saturday 13th October - I was delighted to be able to attend a seminar in Foxton on both the lock flight and it's replacement by a twin tank lift and it's subsequent reversion to the use of the locks.

Wednesday 17th October - Tony and I spoke again (for the 4th time) to the Harrow Way over 55s Club on the subject of "Golden Oldies". Another donation.

Thursday 18th October - Spent most of the day at Longbridge Mill with Basil, Fred, Rupert & Mick doing more clearing work.

Saturday 20th October - More work with the gang on the water pump at Timsbury.

Sunday 28th October - Rather a wet day but a most interesting one being on a guided tour of the Mills of Emsworth conducted by Tony. I gained a good deal of information. Thanks Tony

Friday 2nd November - Looked at Bindon Mill in Dorset on behalf of the SPAB. The developers have been most co-operative and at last I was able to inspect what I thought might be an early type of roller mill. This turned out to be nothing more than a forced air fan from some earlier ducting at the mill. All of the items I had asked the developers to do have been or will be done.

Friday 9th November - Today was my last Committee Meeting at SPAB where they were kind enough to drink my health and thank me for the work I had carried out on their behalf.

Saturday 10th November - A number of us went to UCL, London to the November Meeting of SPAB on The Work of the Mill in Industry. Quite a good day with some interesting presentations.

John Silman

Longbridge Mill

Basil Hunt, Fred Spiers, Bill Allford, John Silman, Mick Edgeworth, Andy Fish and Sheila Viner front the team which mills at Longbridge on the fourth Saturday each month. Flour is for sale in the pub attached to the mill (you can also get a drink and a meal!). Basil and Fred visit the mill every week to turn the wheel over and check for any possible problems. Sometimes a team is called in to lift and clean the mill-stones.

Meal moth is attracted to flour and grain and to prevent them, the team have hung branches of bay tree, but even so, every three months a team of four dismantle the hopper and its fittings and, using a hoist, remove the runner stone and give everything a good clean and vacuum. A couple of pints of grain is then spread on the bed stone to keep the stones from actually meeting and the whole is replaced and checked for smooth running. This gives Basil an opportunity to check the stones for damage and to see if they need re-dressing.

Eleanor Yates

Fact File

NAME OF MILL	BEAULIEU TIDE MILL
TOWN	BEAULIEU
SOURCE of POWER	BEAULIEU RIVER (tidal)
MAP REFERENCE	196-SU-387 023
MILL REF	HAM.WT. T. (25)
Listed	Grade: II. Conservation area.

Tide Mill, built about 600 years ago by monks of Beaulieu Abbey. Picturesque frontage on right of road leading from village to Abbey. Still in use. Mellow brick. Photographed 20 June 1951. standing at work. *(Simmons.)*

Reynolds p.37. The undershot wheel of timber at Beaulieu mill in Hampshire is therefore a rare survival. It is of primitive compass arm construction, with radial spokes mortised to a heavy wooden axle and secured with wedges. Iron is used only for fastenings, and for tie rods linking the floats. Each rim, like those of a waggon wheel, is built up from segments or 'fellows' of oak, but the design precludes the use of an encircling iron tyre, the strength and symmetry of the wheel depends on the craftsmanship of the millwright.

John Reynold refers to Mr S Norris at the mill.

Isometric drawing p.39.

Photographs: sluice gates p.18. ladder p.29. facade p.28. old sack hoist p.50. sack scales p.50.

1573 HENRY WELLS, miller.

1792 THOMAS BARNEY, miller, of the parish of Bewley, insures:- On his household goods in dwelling house situate as aforesaid £110. Utensils & stock in Water Corn Mill adjoining £400. On a house, water corn mill with the going gears belonging and stable adjoining situate at Fawley in Hants, in tenure of Thomas Barney, miller, thatched £150. *(Ashlett Mill)* On a water corn mill with the going gears belonging in same tenure near, brick timber and tiled. *(Sun Fire Ins.602868-Vol.388-12 July 1792)*

1803 THOMAS BARNEY, miller & farmer, of Beaulieu, insures:- On part of Corn Mill House lately erected adjoining but not communicating with his dwelling house at Beaulieu aforesaid, brick, timber and tiled £100. Stock in trade & utensils in the said millhouse £700. Standing & going gears etc. in the same £80. On Ashlett house, corn millhouse and stables all adjoining brick, timber and thatched situate at Fawley £100. On the standing and going gears etc. in the said mill £50. On a water corn millhouse not adjoining but communicating by an enclosed and covered passage brick timber and tiled £150. On the standing and going gears etc therein £80. Warranted no steam engine in either. *(Roy.Ex.Fire Ins.203690. 13 Oct 1803)*

1803 Wanted, a steady person as Forman and Assistant Clerk in a water corn mill. Such a one producing satisfactory testimonials of his abilities, honesty and sobriety, may hear of a situation where good wages will be given, by applying personally, or by letter, post paid, to Mr THOS. BARNEY at Beaulieu, Nr Southampton. *(Portsmouth Newspaper 1803)*

1804 THOMAS BARNEY, miller & farmer, of Beaulieu. insures:- On his stock in trade including bolting cloths, sacks, utensils etc in his two water corn millhouses adjoining & communicating timber and tiles situate at Fawley in the county aforesaid £200. On stock in trade etc. in his water corn millhouse adjoining but not communicating with his dwelling house brick timber and tiled situate at Beaulieu aforesaid £700. On standing & going gear etc in the same £40. Warranted no steam engine in either. *(Roy.Ex.Fire Ins.212725. 24 Dec 1804)*

1807 THOMAS BARNEY, miller & farmer, insures:- On his dwelling house, brick & tiled £380. On water corn mill adjoining and communicating with above, brick timber and tiled £100. On the water wheels, standing & going gears £120. On stock in trade £1,000. On a water corn millhouse not adjoining but communicating with by an enclosed and covered passage with the last mentioned, brick timber and tiled £150. *(also insures Ashlett Mill)* *(Roy.Ex.Fire Ins.234828..21 Dec)*

1840 STEPHEN BARNEY of Beaulieu, miller. One of the assignees of a Southampton baker & grocer in an indenture dated 11 July 1840. *(Lon.Gaz.11 July 1840)*

Fact File

1841 STEPHEN BARNEY of Beaulieu, miller. One of the assignees of a Lymington baker. (*Lon.Gaz.* - 2 April '41)

1867-78 JAMES BURDEN, miller, Beaulieu, (*Kdir* 1867-75-78)

1880-89 Mrs J BURDEN, miller, Beaulieu, (*Kdir.*)

1895-1923 Miss J BURDEN, miller, Beaulieu, (*Kdir.* 1895-99-1903-07-11-15-20-23)

1904 Armfield turbine installed. (*M.Watts*)

1927-31 FREDERICK NORRIS, miller, Beaulieu, (*Kdir.* 1927-31)

1939 NORRIS & Sons, miller, Beaulieu, (*Kdir.*)

1940 Beaulieu Mill is built on the bridge across the Beaulieu River, which separates the Abbey from the Village, and uses fresh water as well as the tide. The main building is of red brick, with a weatherboarded extension at the rear, and tiled roofs. At one time there were two wheels under the floor of the mill. One wooden wheel now remains, 12ft 4ins diameter by 4ft 6ins wide, with 24 buckets, mounted on an 18inch diameter wooden shaft and driving two pairs of stones mounted on a hurst on the ground floor. Two further pairs of stones and a sack hoist are driven by an 8 h.p. electric motor. (*Rex Wailes* 1940)

1940 The wheel is a wooden compass arm 4ft 6ins wide. The upright shaft is the smallest wooden one existing in a tide mill; it is of pine and is 15ins across the flats. Has a 6 compass arm great spur wheel. Wootton and East Medina Mills on the I.O.W. are similar, the only other known example in a Tide Mill is to be found at St Osyth Mill, Essex. Stones at Beaulieu are on hursts on the ground floor. Crown wheel has face gear but sack hoist no longer works from it; a hand hoist has been substituted. The winding drums are 6 inch diameter on the first floor, & 17 inch diameter in a lantern in the roof. The latter is, appropriately enough, the lantern pinion once used with the face gear; the sack drum is 5ins diam. (*Rex Wailes* 1940)

1961 Beaulieu Mill is built on a bridge across River Beaulieu, which separates the Abbey from village; red brick and tile. The earliest reference to the mill is in ancient archives. Henry, 3rd Earl of Southampton, let the mill to one HENRY WELLS of Bewley in 1573 for a rent of £7 a year. The present owner is Lord Montague of Beaulieu. The mill was in regular use until 1942, when it was closed down. At that date there were two water wheels 13ft 6ins in diameter and 4ft 6 ins wide. Only one now remains. A former miller's assistant who did the grinding for many years says that the mill normally ran for 4½ to 5 hours and for 10 hours in the 24 when necessary, by working both tides. The stones had to be dressed after they had ground 600 cwt. (30 tons) and they ground 5½ cwt an hour when freshly dressed. (*Douglas Went, Country Life*, 11 May 1961)

1968 A Tide Mill brick and timber built. One wheel and two pairs of stones with drive gear still exist, also two tunnels for mill races. Original hoist gear still used for storing sacks of animal feed. (*WC Wells - Gaz. of Mills in Hants.* Monica Ellis. 1968. *SULAG*)

1977 Mill owned by Beaulieu Estate - one wheel 2 pairs stones with drive gear - two tunnels to mill races - turbine removed - building brick, flint and timber - hoist was used for storing sacks and animal food. (*WC Wells - SULAG*)

1978 This is a brick and weatherboarded three storey mill with a tiled roof. It is powered by a large tidal pond which is also fed by the Beaulieu River. The mill dam carries the Hythe Beaulieu Road. The mill originally had two water wheels. On one side is a wooden compass arm wheel, a rare survival, together with two sets of stones and the complete milling machinery. The second wheel was replaced in the C19th by a turbine and two bedstones remain in position. The now disused mill machinery was later worked by an electric motor for grinding animal food. The original friction belt hoist gear was used. (*GGs Bowie - Water & Wind Mills of Hants & IOW.* Monica Ellis 1978. *SULAG*)

1985 Ruby Williams took photographs of the mill. (*HMG minutes Dec.85*)

1985 Grant aid for the mill restoration refused by English Heritage.

1994 The mill is getting in a very poor state - the floors are most unsafe. (*HMG group minutes*)

1996 Old mill to be restored then opened to public: A threatened historic mill in the heart of the New Forest is to be restored to its former glory at a cost of about £30,000 and opened to the public. The tide mill, in Beaulieu High Street, dates back to the C17th and has a rare surviving timber compass-arm wheel, as well as an old clay-tiled roof. Repairs to the roof will form a major part of the restoration work to the now-redundant mill which has been on the threatened buildings list for many years. Hampshire County Council has agreed to contribute £6,000 towards the repairs. (*Southern Daily Echo* 3 May 1996).

The First St Cross Mill.

I don't have the reference to hand but recall reading that William of Wykeham, while Bishop of Winchester (1366-1404), had the great leat excavated to serve St Cross Mill. Most people who look at the broad river, which runs through the water meadows to the east of St Cross Hospital, do not realise that it is an example of 14th century water engineering, indeed, even in 1402 there was a reference to 'the great river' running down to the sea, whereas it is probable that before Wykeham, the Itchen was more of a series of lesser water courses meandering through the swampy valley beneath St Catherine's Hill.

The same reference mentions two mills at St Cross, and earlier, in 1392, there is a reference to a new mill, so it would seem that the predecessor of the present mill was built at the end of Wykeham's leat, between 1336 and 1392.

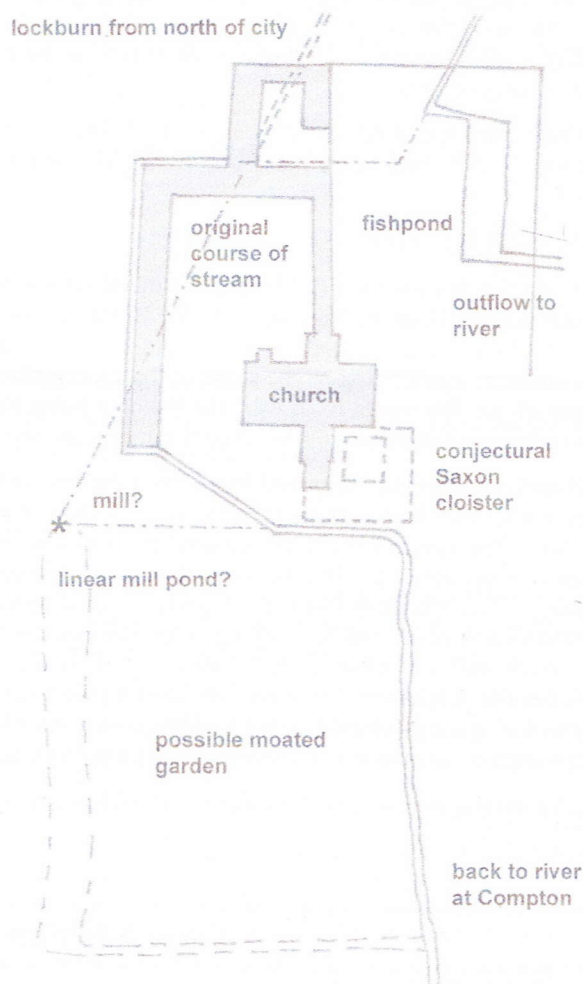
Where then was the second, earlier mill and when was it built? From now on what I have to say is conjecture based on observation of the ground and the streams around the Hospital buildings, but it is the conclusion reached by John Keevil, a miller's son, who showed me the evidence and convinced me, if not yet everyone else.

One person who disagreed was the late Christopher Curry, an eminent archaeologist whom I knew well and much admired. After making a field study of the curious earthworks south of the Hospital buildings, Chris concluded that they marked out a very large moated garden. Mediaeval gardens were not infrequently moated to protect them from roaming deer and perhaps roaming vagabonds. Deer that can leap a six foot fence will be thwarted by a moat that extends the length of their leap. But the area within the excavations that could denote a moat is very large, and I have heard of no reference to a moated garden at St Cross in the archives.

John Keevil's theory is based on his knowledge of the necessary water engineering to service a mill and, for that matter, a monastery. Evidence, both archival and on site suggests that when Henry de Blois founded the Hospital at St Cross in 1137, there was already a small Saxon monastery on the site, very possibly in semi-derelict condition and perhaps uninhabited after depredations by the Vikings.

The evidence includes the presence of Saxon water engineering that served the essential sewage-removal needs of such a community. The system takes a narrow canal from the main river and runs it around the buildings before returning to the river.

The canal that does this at St Cross is taken from the Itchen way off to the north of Winchester – a strange thing to do when the river is so close. But this canal is cleverly run at a lesser gradient than the river so that further down stream the system creates a head of water sufficient to drive a mill wheel. In this case the canal was utilised to serve more than one mill and more than one community. No wonder it is called the lockburn, in old English meaning 'filthy' stream.



The First St Cross Mill. continued

The stream enters St Cross on its northern approaches where it divides to serve the community's fishpond and then to run around the almshouses to flush away the sewage. However, the present quadrangle was not built until the 15th century, when the canal was re-routed to run in a rectangle along the backs of the new buildings under their garderobes. Before that its diagonal course would have continued across the present quadrangle and, if a line is projected on plan, it neatly connects with the end of the great ditch which forms the west side of the 'moated' area. John points out, however, that this ditch is much broader than on the other three sides and, moreover, has its gradient in the wrong direction. His theory is that it is a linear mill pond designed to build up the necessary head of water overnight before being run back through a small mill race for long enough to grind the flour for the community's needs, thus saving the great expense of buying from a miller. For this right it is recorded that St Cross paid £1 per year in the early years of the 13th century.

The ditch to the south of the 'moated' area is by comparison of very small proportions and John holds that it is no more than an overflow from the end of the linear pond to prevent flooding. From the little mill at the north end of the mill pond, the tail stream ran eastwards to provide the flushing system of the Saxon monastery, which lay to the south of the present church, before turning at right angles, parallel to the river, not to rejoin it until the village of Compton, several miles away where it served another mill. The first length of this tail stream has been diverted more than once, first when the great 15th century quadrangle was built, and again at the end of the 18th century when the southern range of the quadrangle was demolished. But the second, straight length, to the south of the eastern half of the present church, suggests that it was here that the Saxon monastic buildings needed their lockburn.

All this suggests that the first mill at St Cross was of Saxon origin and that it stood at the northern end of the great ditch in St Cross Park. Conjecture to be sure but not a mere flight of fancy.

Michael Carden (one time architect to St Cross Hospital) with acknowledgements to John Keevil.

Emsworth Mills Walk 28.10.07

Members of the Hampshire Mills Group, with their usual impeccable timing, chose the wettest day of October to walk round the mills of Emsworth with Tony Yoward as guide.

Most of the mills suffer from 'Edwin Course'ism' – the site is there, the mill is not: but, at Slipper Tide Mill we were able to pace the dimensions of the mill and see its foundations. The tide gates opened automatically on the rising tide while we were there and the sluice gate to the mill pond, which had been repaired by HMG & HIAS's heavy gang, was noted and the diving little grebes were admired by the birders in the group.

We could also see the site of the New Slipper Tide Mill, it was built too late to be commercially viable and suffering the fate of many mills, it was 'accidentally' burned down on a Saturday evening.

The group then splashed round the town, past the sites of the two steam saw mills, Fosters and Sharps, to the Quay Tide Mill. Later converted to steam and then diesel power, it originally had an undershot wheel and three pairs of stones. The building is now the Slipper Sailing Club. From there we dripped round to the Town Water Mill in Queen Street, powered by the river Ems, it originally had up-to-date roller milling equipment, but was unable to compete with modern steam mills and closed in the 1930s. The original metal windows are still in the mill and we could see the marks from where the luccam has been removed and the building now houses offices and light industry.

After lunch we squelched up the Ems to Lumley Water Mill which is on the Sussex side and powered by a leat from the main river. The Mill had been burned down in 1915, but the 1805 miller's house, the stables, cart-house and the foundations of the mill and bakery remain. We saw the cast iron launder and over-shot wheel which remain in the garden, by kind permission of the owners Mr & Mrs Lafosse.

Tony had given us all a copy of his Emsworth Paper 5 'Mills and Millers' which includes a photograph and potted history of all 8 mills. Our tour finished at 4 Slipper Mill with hot drinks & cake and a good look at all of Tony's photographs of the mills of Emsworth.

Eleanor Yates

A Revolutionary Water Wheel

The River Lea is no stranger to innovation; from the springs which rise north of Luton throughout its 50 mile length to its meeting with the River Thames. Countless watermills have harnessed its power over many centuries to provide energy to a diverse number of purposes, such as corn milling, paper making and gin distilling; but few actively survive.

This year one of those watermills scooped the British Council of Offices (BCO) prestigious Best Small Project in the South of England Award because of a far-seeing £2.5million scheme which encompasses the production of electricity from a truly revolutionary new kind of waterwheel. The newly refurbished and converted Lemsford Mill buildings, now house the headquarters of the Ramblers Holidays company whose modern office technology is powered by the German made, state-of-the-art, Zupinger wheel.

Unique in the U.K., this breastshot wheel can generate, in optimum conditions, 15kWh; enough for electricity to be sold to the National Grid. Based on an 19th century design and manufactured by HydroWatt at a cost of £70,000, the 4.2m diameter wheel has backward inclined curved paddles made of larch attached to a mild steel frame. The curved paddles, or blades, allow for a gentle decrease of the water level from upstream to downstream, and minimize losses at the downstream end. They are also said to be kinder than turbines to the creatures inhabiting the waterways.

Dr Gerald Muller of the University of Southampton's School of Civil Engineering and Environment believes that a new generation of water wheels could help meet targets for renewable energy in the U.K. as well as create a viable option for remote communities in the developing world.

Lemsford Mill, astride the River Lea near Welwyn Garden City, is surely leading the way, certainly for small businesses. The BCO judges described the "quaint, immaculately refurbished" mill building as a "rare joy".

Try these websites for more technical information:

www.ramblersholidays.co.uk/lemsford_mill.aspx

www.hero.ac.uk/uk/business/achives/2006/reinventing_the_water_wheel.cfm

www.qub.ac.uk/civeng/research/hy/researchpages/subpages/waterwheels.htm

Architects Journal 25.10.07

Sheila Viner

Hockley Mill

Hockley Mill was open to the public on National Mills Day, Sunday 13 May and on Heritage Open Day, Sunday 9 September 2007.

Although the weather in May was horrible, we had a few visitors, some of whom had come from out of the county to see Hockley's unusual horizontal beam arrangement.

In September there were visitors waiting before we were even open and about 60 people including several families were shown round by Basil Hunt, Fred Spiers & Eleanor Yates. Tony Yoward provided all the information we needed to create a four page leaflet about Hockley including photographs, John Reynolds's line drawing of the works and a history of the millers of Hockley.

We were able to open the sluices to run the wheel, but not under load as there is a crack in the pit wheel which needs repairing.

The mill is very popular with children as they are able to visit all three floors to see exactly how flour was produced. They are very pleased if they find the desiccated mouse on the table with the thrift and other mill fittings.

The next opening day is the first of January 2008 when the Friends of King Alfred's Buses will be running trips from Winchester's Broadway to Twyford Pumping Station via Hockley. The timetable is now available from FoKAB and we are guaranteed a good day. It is possible to walk back to Winchester across the water meadows or you can catch the bus.

Eleanor Yates

TIMS Symposium 2007 - Netherlands

The 12th International Symposium on Molinology took place from 2 -10 June, in Putten, (Gelderland), The Netherlands. This country is famous for its enormous number of windmills of which about 1,100 survive. Not just drainage mills of many designs and sizes but many forms of corn/wheat mills, saw and oil mills. Watermills may be small in number but are equally cherished.

The Symposium Chairmanship was in the very capable hands of Yolt IJzerman. It was a very varied programme of many presentation themes, excursions, receptions, informal sessions, much dining and conversation on mills'. I cannot in this very brief review go through much of the many formal papers of considerable merit. It provides a world melting pot of traditional mill news and information in the common language of English. Perhaps that is why so many HMG members subscribe and attend.

The first keynote presentation was on the 3rd June, by the then current President, Michael Harverson from Watford. Reviewing TIMS, personalities, its aims, achievements, publications and the challenges it faces into the future.

Tony Bonson from Cheshire, later in the day presented a paper on, 'The Stone Grinding Mills of the Churnet Valley'. This was about flint grinding mills which took over from most other types of mill in the 18th century in this area. Their output fed to the expanding Staffordshire potteries via the Chaldon Canal built in 1777. Many may have heard of Cheddleton, near Leak at the centre of this industry. The construction methods of these mills were markedly different, in that they include brick arches supported on iron beams, as used in early fire-proof textile mills.

On Monday 4th, Ken Major of Reading and a HMG member, presented, 'Between Windmills and Wind Generators – The Windmills of E Lancaster Burne'. A clever, early 20th century attempt at reinventing the windmill and its power uses.

Our own Jeff Hawksley from Romsey, presented 'Regolfo Watermills, their Construction and Performance'. A topic close to me, as I have been researching the use of this ancient and unusual waterpower form (for tide mills), for nearly 10 years. They were widely located until around two hundred years ago and were almost common in some parts of central France, northern Spain and some small coastal areas of Iberia and the Bay of Biscay. Well researched and presented by an engineer who knows how to explain technical terms to the layman. So what is a Regolfo mill? Generally a small horizontal water wheel enclosed in a stone cylindrical chamber and where water is admitted tangentially through a tapered vertical slot. Direct drive, to one pair of mill stones. Come and ask Jeff or myself about them at the next HMG Meeting. Or even e-mail one of us!

In the late morning session a tide mill enthusiast in the form of, George Miranda of Portugal presented, 'The reconstruction of the tidal mill of Cais – Montijo', (Lisbon, Portugal). Just up my street as they say. As I have visited this site on two occasions in the previous three years, and seen this major restoration from almost a pile of rubble with a coffer dam around. It is now finished and open to the public as a major tourist focus of the town. A pity though, that the earlier sea gates were not included to allow tidal operation. It is now a good example of the many tidemills in this area, to the south of the Tagus Estuary. There is a published book on this tide mill, 'Moinho de Mare do Cais das Fuluas'. I have a copy (in Portuguese) signed by George Miranda, the co-author. Ask me for details if you are interested.

On Wednesday 6th, Mildred Cookson the miller at Mapledurham Mill on the Thames, west of Reading, (who is another HMG member), presented 'The Old Mills of Liverpool'. A historical perspective of mainly early windmills, using the medium of post cards, drawings and paintings to show this fast growing city in the past three hundred years.

Friday 8th was a themed Conference Day. "Drainage, Mills and Polders: History and Preservation". Firstly, three short presentations, including historical information of the first wind-driven drainage mill near Ghent, documented to 1316. This was followed by Peter Filby from Cambridge, a Mills Research Group member with a long family history in the business of drainage mills. His presentation, 'Windmills and the Drainage of the Fens in Eastern England', gave a very expansive and well researched paper on the topic of Fenland drainage mills. The historical development of Fenland windmills, drainage companies and the capital finance of large landowners to expand their use of agricultural land in the Fens of Eastern England.

There then followed a further four fascinating presentations on the same theme to conclude the day. I have purposely limited the scope of this review to keep it as topical to our readership as possible. I am sure most Symposium publications can be viewed or borrowed, from the HMG members attending.

After the Symposium ended, some of us were off on the Post Symposium Tour to Flanders. That is another contribution for a future Newsletter.

David Plunkett

Croatian Mills at the source of the Gacka

After our visit to Croatia in the Spring, when we discovered the little mill at Rude near Samobor, our friend Tihana knew of our enthusiasm for watermills. So, as a surprise, when she devised the excursion for the ECOVAST (European Council for the Village and Small Town) General Assembly, she included what was a real highlight. We were told we would be visiting Otocac, but not what we would see!

Imagine our delight when we learned that the visit was to a project a few miles outside the town – a restored watermill at one of several deep lakes occurring at the source of the River Gacka, known as Majeroo Malin. We arrived at this idyllic location in October sunshine and were able to tour the complex, where milling was taking place. The mill dates from 1915 and was the mill of the Brajković family. It was at that time one of six in the complex (the others are now in use as visitor centre, shop etc) – one produced pliva (for cattle feed), one ground maize and the other four, wheat. All the mills were disused by 1960 and went into disrepair. In 2002 a project began to restore the complex as part of the regeneration of the village. Funding came from government sources, local and national, but much of the work was done by local volunteers, who since 2004 have cared for the mill and who welcome visitors.

Each mill had two rooms downstairs, one where milling took place and one to store grain and act as a waiting room (people from surrounding villages would come with their grain and wait whilst it was processed – quite a local social centre, with traditional refreshments provided). Upstairs was the miller's room (not his home – just for him to take breaks). In one of the mill buildings this has been preserved, together with examples of local crafts, such as weaving wool. Power for the mill used to come from wooden wheels, but the restored mill has two horizontal turbines under the building instead. The mills are linked by a wooden walkway which goes alongside the mill pond. Ground level ramps connected with one end of the wooden walkway for carts bringing grain and dispatching finished products and, at a right angle from the walkway, a wooden bridge across the lake, carrying a railway for horse drawn trucks. Nearby are the ruins of a stone building which was used for the storage of the carts, and as a stable.

We knew that similar mill complexes had existed along the sources of the spring, but it was still a surprise when we found ourselves having lunch looking down on another such set of mills, this one not restored. There was just time to go down and have a brief look – the buildings are in very poor repair, but their contents – stones etc - remain in situ. What a pity the location is rather far for HMG to take a working party – it would stretch "Greater Hampshire" a bit!

We were heartened that these sites are being valued by local people in Croatia, and that the authorities are keen to see them preserved and, where possible, restored. After many years of upheaval and war, there have had to be other priorities than industrial heritage, so this is a very welcome trend.

Pam Moore



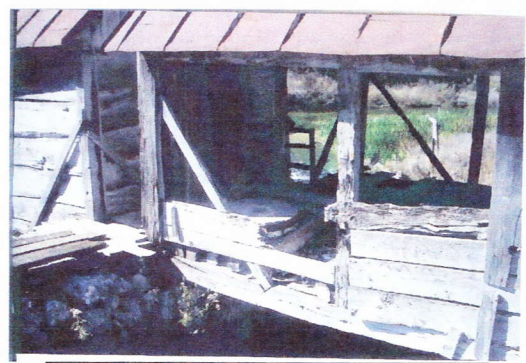
Majeroo Malin - Otocac Croatia



Majeroo Malin - interior



Un-restored Mill - Otocac, Croatia



Un-restored Mill - Otocac, Croatia