

# Hampshire Mills Group Newsletter



No. 78 Autumn 2007

[www.hampshiremills.org](http://www.hampshiremills.org)

registered charity number 1116607

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HMG members at the TIMS Symposium held in Putten in the Netherlands in June 2007  
LtoR: Basil Hunt, Joan & Peter Hill, Helen & Ken Major, Peter Mobbs, Mick Edgeworth,  
David Plunkett, Mildred Cookson, Ros Plunkett and Jeff & Mavis Hawksley

## HMG Dates for your Diary - 2007

**Saturday 29th September** - Autumn Meeting and AGM - at The Abbey Hotel, Romsey, 2:00pm to 3.30pm. Pre-meeting lunch at the Hotel, can be booked.

**Saturday 15th December** - Winter Meeting at the Beaulieu Estate, 2:00pm.

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

**Meetings for 2008** - Dates TBC following Autumn Meeting, Times and Venues TBA

**14 or 15 March** - Spring Meeting

**13 or 14 June** - Summer Meeting

**19 or 20 September** - Autumn Meeting and AGM

**12 or 13 December** - Winter Meeting

## **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.

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

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### Editor's Comments

In the last Newsletter, I told you that I was off to The Netherlands for the 12th TIMS Symposium. David and I did not take in the Pre-Tour of Holland but others did and a report by Mick Edgeworth is on pages 11 & 12.

We did however stay on for the 4 day Post-Tour in Flanders and, with Frans Brouwers as our guide, a fantastic time was had by all. I have never seen so many working wind and water mills.

The Symposium itself was well attended with approximately 100 delegates, 50% of which came from the UK. Of those, there were no less than twelve members of HMG, pictured on page 1, in front of the Hotel Mooi Veluwe in Putten which (would you believe it) is part of the HAMPSHIRE HOTELS chain.

The event was brilliantly organised by a Committee of six, headed by Chairman, Yolt IJzerman, with papers every morning, mill visits every afternoon and informal papers in the evenings (for anyone fit enough to stay up for them).

The week ended with an evening boat tour of the Kaag Lakes with some of the most amazing photographic opportunities, yet another mill visit, and a fantastic buffet supper on board.

The next morning, we said goodbye to those who were going home and set off for Flanders. I had intended to report on the Post Symposium Tour, but with an article already included by Mick, and one waiting in the wings, by David, you can have too much of a good thing. Another time maybe!



One of those wonderful views from the boat

*Ros*

### When you are in Romsey

..... at the Abbey Hotel for the AGM on Saturday Sept 29th why not check out the Charter Stone. Look for the images of some of the mills of Romsey and see if you can name the images. The Charter Stone is a tall stone column opposite the Post Office on the north side of Church Place.

*Mick Edgeworth*

### Anne Finnigan

Having called round to Pilcot Mill, on two occasions, and found no one there and no sign that anyone had been there for quite a while, David became extremely concerned about the whereabouts of HMG member and mill owner, Anne Finnigan. He raised the alarm among one or two members which resulted in John Silman turning detective and heading for Dogmersfield to unravel the mystery.

He discovered that Anne was in hospital and had been for some weeks, having fractured her femur. He put David and I on the case and I took in some flowers and a card and David has visited her a couple of times. Anne is hoping to return home in the next couple of weeks. I know that I speak for everyone in HMG when I say

**"Anne we wish you a full and very speedy recovery"**

## Chairman's Diary

**Tuesday 1st May** - I spent most of the day writing individual letters of thanks to all the people who welcomed and assisted us on our visits to Norfolk and Suffolk. Such an enjoyable four days.

**Thursday 10th May** - I met Mick at Hockley Mill to clean and tidy the mill in preparation for National Mills Weekend. We still await an answer from the owner on what to do to repair the split in the pit wheel of this very important mill.

**Sunday 13th May** - Eleanor kindly agreed to assist me in manning Hockley Mill for the national weekend open to the public. You will of course remember that it poured with rain all morning and we did not see a single visitor. As the weather improved a little in the afternoon, we eventually ended up with twelve visitors and ten pounds in the donation tin. Thanks Eleanor for all your help and interesting conversation. It really helped to pass the time.

**Thursday 17th May** - HMG Committee Meeting.

**Monday 21st May** - Nothing at all to do with mills but I cannot resist an item of interest to all of us. In my capacity as a volunteer driver for Eastleigh Borough Council, I took a party of students (of all ages) to the waste disposal plant at Alton. These people were students of The University of the Third Age who visited to see how modern methods were dealing with our waste disposal. After a thought provoking lecture, we were able to tour the works and see for ourselves how paper, plastics, tins & bottles etc., were mechanically sorted, although the final process was done by human hand and eye.

We were then treated to a delightful buffet lunch and a final exhortation to sort and dispose thoughtfully of our waste.

**Thursday 24th May** - 7.30pm. I attended & spoke to the Annual Bishopstoke Assembly. I brought them up to date on work so far on getting plans up for work on the turbines which powered Shears Mill. They are keen to get started and we must get on with our plans.

**Friday 25th May** - I spoke to Fareham Parish Ecology Group on the History of Milling and about "green" issues in milling. A very interested audience who said they would join HMG.

**Saturday 26th May** - With John Christmas and Carol to check the work intended at Bindon Mill in Dorset to convert it to living accommodation. The floors are still in a very dodgy state and we can still not get to the far end of the milling floor to check on what may be an early roller mill.

**Saturday 26th May** - To Lords Farm, Petersfield to our members' Annual Assembly. I refer of course to the one and only John Lovell who, every year, raises much money in support of good causes (mainly Cancer Research) by inviting his friends (and there are many of them) to bring and display their objects and artefacts of a bygone age. You can see anything from dolls to steam rollers, much of it from John's own collection which is immense and eclectic. Eleanor and Tony were kind enough to come and help and despite the persistent rain, a good time was had by all. We all hope it was successful financially as well. Well done John.

**Sunday 3rd June** - As no-one else was available, John C and I went to Timsbury to get the fountain down into the pond. We were told that there was 2 or 3 feet of mud in the bottom of the pond. There certainly was 2 or 3 but only inches of mud and we successfully set the fountain up and gave it full bore trial. It is really powerful and was sending water some 15 to 18 feet into the air when the wheel was running flat out. It was great to see it.

**Tuesday 5th June** - While taking a group of older folk on a boat (The Alison McGregor) we were carried north from Hythe Marina and ended up in Eling Creek only a few yards away from the downstream side of Eling Tide Mill. It is certainly different to approach a mill on the tide instead of by road!

**Sunday 10th June** - On a visit and walk (organised by Jon Sims for HIAS members) on the lower reaches of the Itchen Navigation, a number of members were able to visit both Gaters Mill and Wood Mill. Gaters Mill has now been pretty well gentrified (and the tree no longer grows around the frame of a motorbike as in days of yore) but lots of clues to its uses remain. We were looking at the mill from its front drive when along came the River Keeper with a very large sea trout which he had found dead in the river. Presumably it had spawned and then died. The River Keeper kindly invited us to look around outside the mill which is now offices and housing but still well worth a look.

We walked on down to Wood Mill and looked at the outside. As the canoe shop was open, I went in and met the duty manager who was good enough to let us all (twelve in total) in and took us all over the building. I regret to advise you that the only possible remains of milling memorabilia is some rope marks on the bin floor beams. It is impossible to get down to sea and river level as the building looks as though it has been floated on a concrete raft. However, he also took us across the road and down to a very large salmon pool allegedly dug by monks in the 12th Century.

## Chairman's Diary

It's a huge pool, some 150 to 200 yards in diameter where salmon and sea trout are regularly seen. Thanks Jon for a super day's exploration.

**Saturday 16th June** - We held our summer meeting and picnic at Lower Neatham Mill, Alton by kind permission of Trevor and Janet Weston. Janet was away but Trevor looked after us magnificently and members enjoyed the gardens and the opportunity to lunch "al fresco" at this delightful mill. Considerable amounts of business were transacted and many people said how much they enjoyed seeing the mill in daylight as all the previous meetings had been evening ones. We are very grateful to Trevor and Janet for their hospitality.

**Tuesday 19th June** - Winchester Tourist Office advertised a walk round Winchester entitled "Winchester, Ancient Mills and Waterways". HMG was well represented and we looked at a number of reputed ancient mill sites as well as Durngate site and City Mill itself (from the outside). It was a pity that the blue badge guides had not contacted the National Trust so that we might have been able to visit the mill as a finale to the walk. However, we enjoyed a look at Winchester mills mentioned in manuscripts and letters etc., and finally, a "swift half" in "The Bishop on the Bridge".

**Saturday 23rd June** - I was not able to go to the Garden Party held in the Bishop's Palace Garden but Alison and Eleanor represented HMG. I await a report on how it all went.

**Saturday 30th June** - With the kind help of Peter Storey (Clerk to Bishopstoke Parish Council) I was able to borrow a key to the Bishopstoke Turbine shed. So today at 3.00pm, I, JC and Carol unlocked the door and inspected as much as we could see of the power units. There is no doubt that they are Armfield turbines as their name is cast into almost every component big enough to carry it. As I've probably already told you, one turbine is a 20 inch and the other a 36 inch.

The bigger one has obviously been well used, the smaller one, hardly at all which only adds to the mystery of why go to the huge expense of buying two turbines not very long before the mill was demolished. We think it is going to be a considerable job but that it is possible. More news on this next month.

**Saturday 7th July** - With Mick, Carol and Eleanor, attended the Hampshire Water Festival at Andover. A very pleasant day but with fewer people attending than last year at Romsey. We wondered if there was a lack of publicity in the areas of North and West Hampshire.

Your Chairman attended the official "BRUNCH" upstairs in the Guildhall. It's a rough job but someone had to do it.

**Sunday 8th July** - Today, we had the first visit with the Heavy Gang "officially" to the Shears Mill Turbines, ostensibly to clear out the tin shed which shelters them and look over the site for the snags we always meet. Nigel and Angela came along early to get the "before" photos which we always forget to obtain.

*Full report & pictures by Nigel Smith opposite.*

**Tuesday 10th July** - I spoke on the History of Milling to some 50 members of the Basingstoke Towns Women's Guild and tried to encourage them to buy their flour over the counter at Longbridge Mill. Yet another donation to our cause.

**Friday 13th July** - I spoke to the Eastleigh Hard of Hearing Club on the History of Milling. Another donation to the costs of restoration. They were particularly interested in Shears Mill.

**Sunday 15th July** - Still waiting for the correct steel to complete the Timsbury pump.

**Wednesday 18th July** - I was delighted to attend the SPAB Headquarters Open House. I was very pleased to see Andy from Beaulieu at the meeting but sorry to hear him say that the culverts under the bridge from the tidal pond to the wheel are filled with concrete because of the use of the bridge by heavy lorries unable to approach Lymington by any other route. This sounds like it may make restoration impossible without huge sums of money being spent. We shall see.

**Sunday 22nd July** - As a Trustee, I attended the quarterly Meeting of the Crux Easton Wind Engine Conservation Trust.

Although not strictly Mill News, I thought you might like to know that this morning, John Christmas (our Project Leader) and I met David Goodwin from the Arlesford Eel House Committee, to look at what is being done. John felt that their work was going in the right direction. We said that we might be able to occasionally provide some labour and perhaps the loan of equipment. We wish them well.

**Thursday 9th August** - HMG Committee Meeting

**Tuesday 14th August** - Very pleased to see on television's "South Today" that Ian Clark is busy fitting the new Dutch composite millstones at City Mill, Winchester. They will be seen again next week, in action on "South Today" if all goes well

*John Silman*

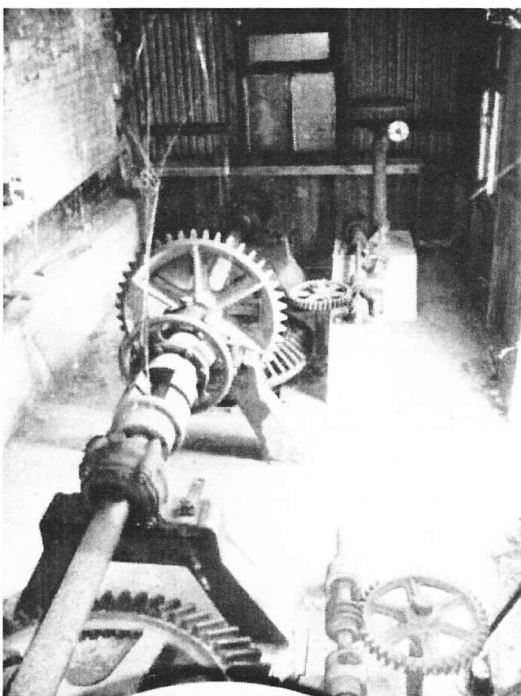


## Bishopstoke Turbines

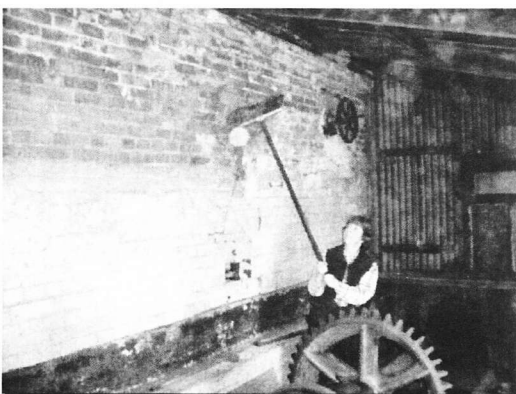
### Report on HMG work at Bishopstoke on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2007



Mill House with Turbine House



Power from both Turbines



Cleaning Duty

After much negotiation John Silman has managed to get a key to the turbine house at Bishopstoke so that the group can begin to assess the condition of the machinery and requirements for future operation.

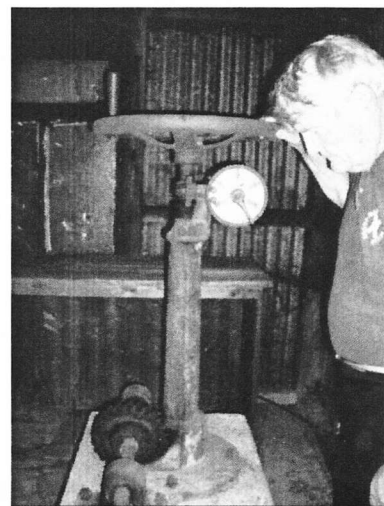
A work party was arranged for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July and several members turned out to begin the task of cleaning and applying releasing oil to the machinery. I took a series of photographs which hopefully will show the 'before' condition inside the turbine house which can be compared one day with completed restoration. We were joined by the clerk to the council who are sponsoring the plan to see if it will be possible to use the restored turbines to generate electricity. It was encouraging to hear from him that there should be access to some grant funding to help deliver this project.

Unfortunately, little remains of the former mill which was demolished in the 1920's, however the turbine installation was retained with the idea that it might be used to generate DC power for the village at that time. This double turbine installation by Armfields of Ringwood is very unusual in that the two machines are coupled together, although it appears they could run independently when required. Apparently they had a very short life and were only in use for four years before milling ceased and the mill was demolished. The millers' house survives and is quite a large and grand building – it stands next to the turbine shed and is currently up for sale.

The major task will be to free off the turbines which are no doubt seized with chalk deposits and decades of river silt and rubbish. Access will be extremely difficult and work cannot be done without damming off part of the river to allow workers to get to the turbine drive and input / outflow tubes. Before any work or even detailed surveys can be attempted,

negotiations with the Environment Agency and the local authorities will be needed to devise a method of working that is safe and does not damage river life.

*Nigel Smith, 9.7.07*



Turbine Control

## Bursledon Windmill

[www.dailyecho.co.uk](http://www.dailyecho.co.uk)  
Monday 16th July

### **Fair winds blow again for historic attraction**

*By Echo Reporter*

HAMPSHIRE'S only working windmill is back in use again after being closed to the public for more than six months.

Bursledon Windmill, which was built in the 19th century, has been carefully restored to its past glory over the last 20 years.

Now members of the public can once again see how its specially-crafted wooden machinery grinds wheat for stoneground flour.

The high-quality flour it produces is used by bakeries across the county, and visitors can buy samples for use at home.

As well as restoring the mill itself, Hampshire County Council has reconstructed a traditional timber framed barn and granary on the site, which is set in the picturesque surroundings of Windmill Wood.

There is also a pond on the farm for children to enjoy dipping for water creatures.

The windmill reopened yesterday. Group visits can be made on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, with priority given to schools.



## Mills On Line

### **New Millers' Tales posted online**

Thousands of items on the history of mills and millers in Kent have been published online.

Over the past two years staff at the Mills Archive in Reading have catalogued more than 8,000 memories and photographs relating to the industry.

The items have been separated into seven different categories dubbed "the new millers' tales".

The £60,000 project was carried out in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund and Kent County council.

Chairman of the Mills Archive, Ron Cookson, said: "Working with this incredibly rich material our volunteers have found more than 500 Kent mills and many personalities, any of which could capture the imagination of the next generation."

The website covers items relating to wind, water and horse powered mills in Kent.

Sheena Vick, of the heritage Lottery Fund, said: "Mills are integral into the landscape and history of Kent. This archive is a rich collection of tales about the mills and millers, bringing the past to life for a new generation."

the website - launched on Friday 10th September at Cranbrook - [www.millsarchive.com/kent](http://www.millsarchive.com/kent)

## City Mill - Winchester

### **New millstones set to keep wheels turning - Hampshire Chronicle - Tuesday 7th August 2007**

NEW millstones arrived at Winchester's City Mill this week - the first of their kind to be commissioned anywhere in Britain for more than 70 years. The National Trust, which owns the property in Bridge Street, says they might be the first new millstones to arrive in Britain since the 1930s.

The few working mills left in the country normally redress' their stones instead of replacing them. However, the previous ones at Winchester, which were installed in the 1860s, had simply become too old. As a result, an order was placed with specialists in Holland to produce new ones, costing around £17,000.

The Winchester branch of the National Trust Association is funding the project, helped by proceeds from a raffle at the mill last summer. Itchen Abbas-based millwright, Ian Clark, is co-ordinating the works. He went to a specialist firm in Holland to collect the stones, which weigh around one ton each and have a diameter of four feet. Because they must be exactly the right size, the original delivery in June was delayed after fears arose that the stones would not fit.

Once the problems were solved, they were shipped to Hampshire in crates designed by Mr Clark. They were taken by road to the City Mill, which stands beside the River Itchen, and can trace its roots back to medieval times. Having been restored in 1743, it continued milling until the early 20th century. It then became a youth hostel before its current guise of being a tourist venue.

A 12 year restoration scheme finished in 2004, which enabled it to produce flour for the first time since 1928. Volunteers produce the flour at weekends, and the 1.5 kilo bags are proving popular. Glenda Willis, from the mill, said: "We have trouble keeping up with demand sometimes, especially when the river is running a bit low because the wheels turn more slowly." She added that receiving the new stones was not an everyday occurrence. "Nobody in this country has had new millstones since the 1930s, as normally they're just redressed," she said.

Mr Clark estimates that they will take around 10 days to install, and should last between 50 and 100 years. The mill is remaining open during the works.

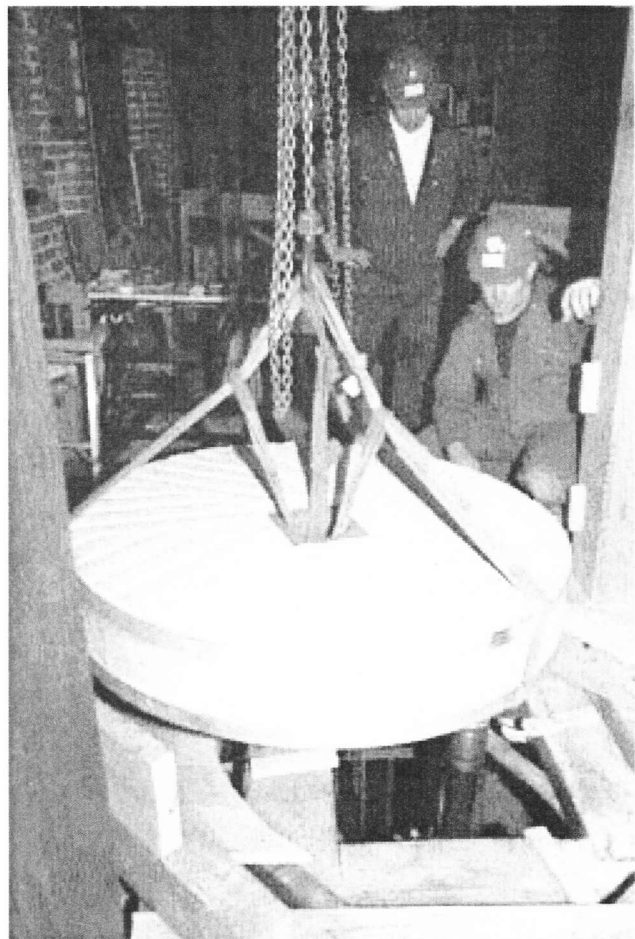
### **Easy does it, as millstones laid – Hampshire Chronicle - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2007**

Winchester City Mill's new millstones were hoisted into place this week.

The Winchester branch of the National Trust Association is funding the £17,000 project, and Itchen Abbas-based millwright, Ian Clark, is overseeing the work.

Mr Clark said: "You might not replace a millstone in over 50 years, so this is not something that happens very often in restored mills in England today."

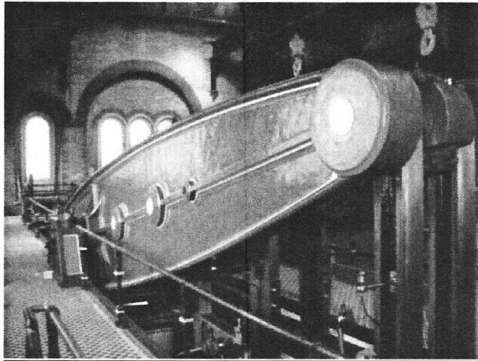
Now the stones are in, there is still plenty of work to do to reassemble the equipment around them so the mill can resume flour production, which recommenced in 2004 after a 12-year restoration scheme.



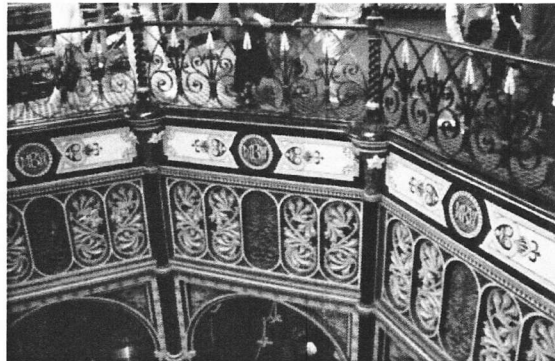
The new Millstones at Winchester City Mill are finally seated into position

## HMG Trip to Crossness Engines and Three Mills Complex

On Sunday 16th September, about 25 members and friends from HMG and HIAS visited Crossness Engines and the Three Mills complex in East London on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September in two mini buses driven by John Silman and Andy Fish.



Crossness Beam



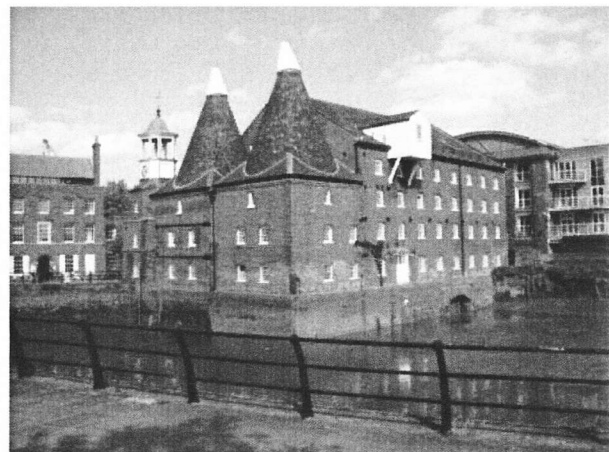
Crossness Ironwork

The weather was fine and after an early start we arrived at Crossness shortly after its opening time of 10.30am to find it was already quite busy. The 4 beam engines, which are the main attraction here, were constructed by Boulton and Watt in 1865, but were totally re-built in 1899 from simple to compound working. They were used to pump London's sewage into the tidal reaches of the Thames as part of Sir Joseph Bazalgette's major improvement works for the Metropolitan Water Board. Each engine was named and the fully restored 'Prince Consort' was in steam and running for long periods – they are said to be the largest rotative beam engines in the world. All visitors to the main engine hall were issued with hard hats as there is still a lot of un-restored iron work and steep metal staircases to negotiate. In line with the special nature of this weekend being 'Open London' there were some vintage vehicles and antique oil engines on display.

In the afternoon we travelled via the Blackwall Tunnel to the Three Mills complex and were split into two groups for a guided tour of House Mill. There have been mills on this site since the Domesday Report, but this building dates from 1776 and is grade 1 listed. It and the adjacent Clock Mill (grade 2 listed) were owned by a Huguenot family and over the years were used for grinding corn, meal, animal feed and materials for the production of raw alcohol for the gin industry. House Mill was rated to be the largest tide mill in Western Europe in its heyday with 4 waterwheels and 6 pairs of millstones.



House Mill



Clock Mill

Both mills ceased work during the Blitz and Clock Mill is now a film studio. (The third mill was a windmill close by). After our guided tour we were free to explore the mill and the surrounding area which is rich in wildlife living cheek by jowl with busy roads and railways, and to patronise the tea shop. A big thank you to John Silman and Andy Fish for organising an excellent day out!

*Nigel Smith*



## Mills and Family History

*By Tony Yoward*

Ashok often passes on queries he receives, sometimes about mills but more frequently about millers. I usually look up in the miller's database or if the name of the mill is mentioned, the mill details. It is pleasant to be thanked for information but I am afraid one often hears nothing more. Why do we do it?

I was asked if we had any Larkins. Below is an exchange of e-mails which might be of interest.

**Aug.1** Cannot find any Larkins in the database of millers - but as I said, if he was not the owner or the head miller it would be unlikely that he would be mentioned in the records. A search of the Parish Records of Births, Deaths and Marriages could be fruitful. Suggest the East Sussex Record Office at Lewes or the Sussex Family History Society who may be can help.

Windmills in the Ewhurst area

Little Mill - Sweeps 18ft long - 1814. T Martin miller

Staple Cross Windmill - erected 1815 - smock mill - millers: Richardson and Carey

Brasses Windmill - post mill with tail pole

Beacon windmill - post mill - miller: William Richardson.

High Park Watermill - Northiam

**Aug.28** Thank you again for your help here. Two windmills at Mill Corner sounds very promising indeed, because both of the brothers went into open trestle post windmills virtually as soon as they lobbed into NSW, before quickly buying or establishing their own post windmills. Even if you can't pin the Larkin/s name on either of the two windmills at Mill Corner, it would be a valuable addition to my book if those two mills could be pointed out as having possible Larkin/s links. It is very interesting that Thomas Larkin is associated with two mills at Mill Corner in 1837 because that is the year that his younger brother upped and moved to OZ.

It is tempting to think that the two brothers were working the two mills at Mill corner up to Edward's departure in 1837. Edward evidently sent back glowing reports about opportunities in OZ, and in 1840, forty something elder brother Thomas, sister Sarah and mum and dad all came out to OZ. Thomas immediately leased a post windmill very close to that of his brother at Campbelltown, but within only two years had established his own post windmill at Picton (the mill probably relocated from the Illawarra district on the NSW south coast - think Wollongong), not too far to the south of Campbelltown, and six years later he built a steam mill at Picton. Edward picked up his brother's lease after the departure for Picton and operated that mill for a few years while he re-established his milling business at Appin.

**Aug.28** Thank you for your "above the call of duty," reply. It is very much appreciated. A descendant in England has discovered and advised me that the elder of the two brothers, Thomas Larkin/s, was in 1837 occupying two mills at Mill Corner at, in, or near Northiam. A Thomas Larkin was also at that time the occupier of Brickwall, at Northiam, presumably a residence. If I am not imposing too much, could I ask whether you have any information at hand or know anybody who might be able to assist with any information about two mills at Mill Corner, Northiam? Unfortunately, I have no idea of what type of mills were involved. Thanking you in anticipation of your continued assistance.

**Aug.31** Six windmills are referred to at Northiam, West Sussex and two watermills but which existed in the 1800s I do not know at present. Two of the windmills refer to Mill Corner so I will try and find if any Larkins are mentioned, but it may be a little while before I can come up with any information.

Mill Corner is a very small village a mile south of Northiam village. Northiam is about ten miles north of Hastings, post code TN316. Northiam has a museum - It is shown on the OS 1:50,000 map but I know nothing more about it.

**Sept.3** No sign of the Larkins at any of the mills. I have looked at all the Simmons entries for Northiam. Below is my entry giving his notes on the Mill Corner mills which seem to be the most likely ones where the Larkins were working. But it would be unlikely they would be mentioned as employees unless they are mentioned in the local paper as injured or in the court. Looks like a dead end at my end but you never know. As the archivist for the Hampshire Mills Group and that my wife Mary was into Family History very deeply you can understand why I was interested in pursuing your Larkins.

## Mills and Family History continued

NAME OF MILL	<b>MILLCORNER</b>
TOWN	<b>MILL END, NORTHIAM</b>
MAP REFERENCE	<b>199-TQ-82 23.</b>
MILL REF	<b>SX.WD.</b>

7 f SW of Northiam church. Shown on maps 1795 and 1823.

Overlooking the upper and lower road from Mill Corner to the main Northiam - Brade Road and stands about 300 yds east of the fork of the two roads, a mill is shown on the maps of 1795 and 1823.

Except that it was a post mill and was blown down on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 1836 during a hurricane which did extensive damage throughout the Sussex coast nothing seems to be known of it except that a new mill was at once erected on the site and for this there are details. (*Simmons Collection, London*).

7½ f south of the church at Northiam. Shown on maps 1795, 1823 and 1861.

Gream's map of 1795 shows two mills at Mill Corner, one of these being the forerunner of Dengate's Mill, whilst another one was situated about 100 yards to the south east.

The latter one of a pair, which eventually made their appearance there, stood in a paddock on the east side of the fork roads but on the south side of the lower road. (*Simmons Collection, London*).

**Sept.4** I can't really thank you enough for your help here. My reading of matters is that Thomas Larkin/s may have been leasing the two windmills. The demolition in a storm of one of the mills (very significantly a post windmill), in November 1836 and Edward Larkin/s subsequent departure for OZ only seven months later in mid-1837, seems most interesting to say the very least. I take it that Dengate's Mill replaced the destroyed post windmill??? If that was the case, do you have the information on Dengate's Mill, which apparently is held in the Simmons Collection, London?.

Unfortunately, it is not indicated what type of the windmill the other was, but the fact that evidently the pre-Dengate Mill was a post windmill seems to back up my belief that both brothers probably worked post windmills in Sussex before they came to OZ.

I would be most grateful if you could let me know the correct referencing details for your notes on the information from the Simmon's Collection for the book that I am writing on the history of Campbelltown's windmills. Given the larger than life parts that the Larkin Brothers are assuming in my book, I am effectively dealing to a large extent with the Larkin/s family's history particularly that in Australia and I am sure that the family member who I have made contact with in England will be absolutely thrilled about your Mill Corner finds at Mill End.

(I mentioned that I lived at Slipper Tide Mill – result-)

We had I think four tide mills in and around Sydney. The first was constructed just below Parramatta circa 1819 and another followed quickly in 1822 in Parramatta proper, both probably erected by ex-convict wheelwright George Howell. Another two tide mills followed on the lower reaches of the Hawkesbury River north of Sydney, one in the mid 1820's and one in the mid-1830's both built by brothers Benjamin and James Singleton (the town of Singleton is named after Benjamin), who both came to Australia as children when their father was sent here as a convict.

We have illustrations of the two Parramatta tidal mills and I believe there are extant remains of the tidal mills' "race" arrangements up on the Hawkesbury.

Again, please accept my sincere thanks for your assistance. Your efforts have provided me with me with what appears to be stunning insights into the Larkin Bros's milling backgrounds in Sussex.

Continues!

Tony Yoward

## TIMS Pre Symposium Tour Highlights of Holland.

This tour took place in the north-west of the Netherlands from the evening of May 29<sup>th</sup> to the evening of Friday June 1<sup>st</sup> 2007. The 33 participants were from 7 different countries with the United Kingdom being represented by 18 people (including 4 from HMG) and hosted by "De Hollandshe Molen".

After an early start we toured the Schermer and Zaan districts to the north of Amsterdam. The Schermer was a large natural lake of 4,760 hectares which was reclaimed between 1633 and 1636 by using initially 24, later increased to 52 octagonal thatched smock mills fitted at first with scoop wheels but later converted to use Archimedean screws. A scoop wheel is limited in its lift to about a third of its diameter. In practice they usually operate on about a quarter of their diameter. Whereas an Archimedean screw has no theoretical limit, here they lift 3 to 4 metres. All drainage was later converted to using electrically driven pumps, bypassing the usual stages of steam followed by diesel driven pumps.

Looking at first, the only paper producing windmill in the world, then by boat on to a barley hulling mill under going restoration, passing another small mill which ground spices. All of these were thatched smock mills. Then to the Zaanse Schans open air museum where we visited many industrial windmills producing oil (linseed), dye-stuffs, oil (mustard) and a paltrok saw mill. Then to a reception at the Zaan Mill Museum which houses many models and on to an excellent meal at a Chinese restaurant. Finally reaching our hotel at 1030 p.m.

The wonderment on Basil's face next morning as he drew the curtains and started counting the drainage mills in view was a delight to see. He counted them three times to make certain he was not seeing things, the final count was nineteen. Of course this was Kinderdijk.

But that was for later. First we toured the five very tall tower mills of Schiedam arguably the tallest in the world. Schiedam is renowned for it's centuries old jenever (gin) production. In 1880 some 20 mills milled the roast malt for 400 distilleries. Each of the mills milled 10 metric tons per day, an enormous amount, for the distilleries. Around 1900 the French invented a process that made the malt milling superfluous, the distilleries started using a residue of the treatment of sugar beet called molasses alcohol, so some of the mills were converted for flour production.

The mills sit alongside the ring canal so make a wonderful sight. Taking in the sights from the reefing stages at 16 to 18.5 metres high was a good way of resting after climbing them. As the windmills burnt down or needed refitting they were replaced by steam mills. We then visited the jenever museum and were given samples to drink before lunch.

We then visited two snuff mills at picturesque Kralingen lake in Rotterdam. Spices ground at these mills included cinnamon, allspice and cumin as well as tobacco. After an early dinner we went on a boat tour of Kinderdijk where we were invited into one of the octagonal thatched smock drainage mills. The lady of the mill had lived the first eighteen years of her life in this mill and after marriage had applied to return to it where she and her husband were raising their two little girls. It was very interesting to see how much room there actually was inside the mill but how tidy you would have to be to live there although they now have all mod-cons.

Next day there was a heavy mist and it was very atmospheric to see the mills appearing out of the gloom. First we were invited to inspect the boardroom of the northern drainage board, next to the Wisboom pumping station, where there were lots of historical artefacts laid out for our inspection.

A brief description of the Kinderdijk complex follows:-

One group of eight thatched smock mills fitted with scoop wheels drained the northern section but the southern area was drained by eight tower mills. The mills of Kinderdijk were the second stage of a three stage water management system, the first stage being the many mills in each polder upstream. The scoop wheels are approx. 6.7m and the pumping head is approx. 1.4m. Built between 1738 and 1840 they remained in full service until 1948 and 1950.

The other three windmills serve as ordinary drainage mills, the two smock mills drain the polder of Nieuw-Lekkerland as a two stage system one fitted with a scoop wheel and the other with an Archimedean screw. The remaining mill is a hollow post mill with it's tower clad with grey and red tiles, it is also fitted with a scoop wheel which drains the small Blokweer polder. The final stage of the drainage system is now by electrically driven Archimedean screws, which superseded diesels.

### TIMS Pre Symposium Tour Highlights of Holland continued

We then visited the Langerak polder where three windmills kept it dry of which only one, the Westermolen, remains. This is a hollow post mill equipped with an open iron scoop wheel. The base is thatched while the buck is weather boarded and tarred. We also visited the 50/60 hp Crossley diesel driven pumping station fitted with a scoop wheel. This is about 100m from Westermolen on the site of Oostermolen drainage mill. A group of volunteers ran the engine and it was enlightening to see how much water the scoop wheel moved.

Our last visit of the day was to Heusden a fortified town on the river Maas to see the three reconstructed post mills built on the town wall surrounding it's inner, fish and outer harbours. After suffering badly in the Second World War the town was reconstructed according to the plan of 1649. All three mills were open for our visit although not grinding due to lack of wind. The town is very much a tourist trap but for all that it was interesting to see what a Dutch town of 1649 looked like.

Then it was away to our symposium hotel near Putten. But the next day was just as strenuous as we spent a full day visiting the open air museum near Arnhem where many historic buildings including mills have been either moved to or reconstructed on this site.

My thanks to the compilers of the tour notes and the many millers and mill societies who made us so very welcome and also to the other tour participants for sharing their knowledge and their good humour. The tour was run with immaculate Dutch precision and knowledge. The complete tour notes (with maps) are available on loan.

*Mick Edgeworth*

### Library Additions

#### August 2007

**Kinderdijk** : Dutch Water Management Throughout The Ages [in Dutch and English]  
by Eppo W. Notenboom & Ben Maandag ISBN 90-78388-01-3. 2006

The sub-title explains it all except that it is only about the Alblasserwaard and doesn't cover the rest of Holland. It does not go into the technicalities of the mills but to compensate it has some really stunning photographs.

**Windmill Giants tower over Schiedam** : A Walking & Cycling Tour through History.[in English]  
By Nathalie Lans ISBN 90-804553-7-7 2000

A history of the mills of Schiedam, Holland containing a lot of historical photographs.

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