

Hampshire Mills Group Newsletter



No. 77 Summer 2007

www.hampshiremills.org

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Neatham Lower Mill - 1969 (C.H.Ellis)

HMG Dates for your Diary - 2007

Saturday 16th June - Summer Meeting - at Lower Mill, Neatham - 2:00pm by kind invitation of Trevor and Janet Weston. You are invited to arrive from 12.30pm onwards and bring a picnic to enjoy before the meeting.

Tuesday 19th June - 6.30pm - Tourist Guide Summer Walk "Ancient Mills & Waterways" for more information, see page 2

Saturday 7th July - Hampshire Water Festival - Indoor events at the Guildhall. Outdoor events at Vigo Road Park

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th September - National Heritage Weekend - volunteers needed to help man the mills that will be open

Sunday 16th September - Visit to House Mill & Crossness Pumping Station - see page 12

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.

HMG Committee Meetings 2007 - (all Thursdays)

9th August, 15 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

Once again, my thanks to the contributors who have enabled me to produce this "bumper" edition.

Like several other HMG members, David and I are off to the TIMS Symposium in the Netherlands at the beginning of June. This has forced me to try to get my act together and produce this Newsletter two weeks early, before we go. I am relying totally, on other HMG members to: print, collate, staple, "stuff" in envelopes, label, stamp and post. What a team!!

For this reason, (and because he has also been suffering for quite a long time with a bad dose of 'Flu) there is a very short Chairman's Diary in this edition - May is missing! Perhaps I can persuade John to include it with his next edition's contribution. I do hope you are feeling a lot better now John.

We hope to be back from the Netherlands in time for the Summer Meeting, but it's going to be a bit tight as we have tacked an extra day onto the end of the trip and hope to visit an exhibition in Brussels. *See page 13*

Ros

HMG Christmas Card - 2007



This is a monochrome copy of the picture we're using for the HMG Christmas card this year. Our thanks to Rupert Dawnay for providing it.

You can order your Christmas cards now from Eleanor Yates, £3.00 for 5 cards (**with this illustration in colour**) and envelopes.

Cheques payable to HMG please & the cards will be posted to you, or can be collected from the meetings in June or September."

From the Vice Chairman

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.

Vitacress Conservation Trust. This is a new charity set up research, conserve and enhance the wildlife and habitats associated with watercress and salad crop farming. It is working in conjunction with Southampton University. John Silman and I attended the Inaugural lecture given by Helen Phillips, Natural England's first Chief Executive on Chalk Rivers: a world-class environment.

Our delegates, to an all day session on June 13th on Chalk Stream Head Waters, will be Tony Yoward and Andy Fish. If you wish to be considered for attending future lectures/sessions please give your name to Mick Edgeworth.

Hampshire Water Festival - Don't forget to attend this event in Andover on Saturday, 7th July. Indoor events at the Guildhall. Outdoor events at Vigo Road Park include a water market, cooking demonstrations, music, theatre, exhibitions and activities for children.

Finally - You may be interested in a forthcoming Winchester Tourist Guide Summer Walk on Tuesday 19th June at 1830 hrs on 'Ancient Mills and Waterways'. Cost £4.50 but get together with your friends and take advantage of the 4 for 3 offer. Tickets must be booked in advance from Winchester Tourist Office (also where the walk starts from) in Winchester Guildhall. 01962 840500.

Mick Edgeworth

Chairman's Diary

Monday 5th March - Spoke with Rachel Bonner of Basingstoke & Deane District Council, re: planning application for solar heating panels on Hartley Wespoll Mill. The council is itself objecting and have asked the owner to put them on a small building, not onto any part of the original mill.

Tuesday 6th March - Spoke to Winchester Salvation Army "Friends" on the History of Milling.

Thursday 8th March - To Timsbury to help dig the trench for the water supply to the fountain.

Saturday 10th March - Attended the SPAB Spring Meeting at University College.

Thursday 15th March - Attended the funeral of David Saunders, a very long serving member of HIAS.

Friday 16th March - As I had to go to a friend's funeral in Kent, Mick kindly stood in for me at a meeting of interested parties in the restoration of Bishopstoke Turbines. This went very well and I, for one, feel that this now has a chance.

Saturday 17th March - Meeting of COGS at SPAB, Spittal Square, London.

Saturday 24th March - Very well attended meeting of HMG at Longbridge Mill. Many thanks to Manager and Staff for looking after us very well.

Sunday 25th March - Trustees Meeting at Crux Easton, of the Wind Engine Conservation Trust.

Monday 26th March - With John Lovell to a show of Ferguson Heritage videos with the thought that it would be good to make a record of the activities of HMG and of the "Heavy Gang". Spoke to Eddie Garrard, the producer/director. This seems a distinct possibility.

Wednesday 28th March - Spoke to Somborne & District Society on Mills.

Thursday 29th March - Met John Lovell and took him to see Gordon Cox (a local historian) who

kindly offered John a delightful model of a tower mill to add to his collection. We hope to see this new one on show at John's open day.

Wednesday 18th April - Spoke to the members of the Topaz Club on the subject of wind and water mills.

Thursday 19th to Sunday 22nd April - HMG tour to Norfolk.

This was brilliantly organised and booked by Andy Fish. Not only that but he took on half of the driving as well!! We were most hospitably greeted wherever we went. The hotel answered all our needs and a good time was had by all. My only complaint - too many ladders in the windmills for my poor old knees.

Our very grateful thanks to Andy. Where are you taking us next year?

Thursday 26th April - I had the very great pleasure to attend the presentation of an SPAB plaque (by Alan Stoyel) to the Mill at Stotfold to mark their tremendous work in breathing new life into this mill following a disastrous fire just before a repairs notice was served. Now, where have I heard that before?

We thought we had problems at Longbridge, but Stotfold was razed to the ground!!

The work is not finished yet but the lovely Whitmore and Binnion castings are now almost all in place and work goes on apace.

Thank you Stotfold and - More Power to Your Elbow!

Monday 30th April & Tuesday 1st May—Tony Yoward and I arranged to meet an American called Chris Dickon from Portsmouth, Virginia who is writing a book about the USS Chesapeake. Over two days, we showed him the mill and talked to him about the British point of view. He was very grateful and promised us a signed copy each! He lives only about a mile from where the Chesapeake was built.

John Silman

From the Treasurer

My thanks to all members who have agreed to pay their subscriptions by standing order and have (in addition) signed our gift aid forms. We are just sending in our first claim since becoming a Charity. If anyone would like a standing order or gift aid form, please contact me on 01962 852594 or Eleanor.Yates@ntlworld.com and I will email or post you one.

Eleanor Yates

Fact File

NAME OF MILL	NEATHAM MILL (LOWER)
TOWN	HOLYBOURNE
SOURCE of POWER	River WEY South
MAP REFERENCE	186-SU-740 408
MILL REF	HAM.W-97

=====

½ ml SE of Holybourne Church -- photo taken 28/5/39 -- Mill inspected 11/2/48 standing in working order. Shown on maps 1800-15 (*Arrowsmiths*), 1817 (*not named*), 1870-71 (*named "Neatham Mill"*), 1901, 1914. Not shown on Greenwoods map.

Two mills here, Old and New. Old Mill is black wooden building on south of present large mill. (*Simmons.*)

NEATHAM 1518/9 & 1567/8 *Document from West Sussex Record Office from Cowdray Ms 306*

Precis of document - items relating to mills in 10th Regal year of Elizabeth (1567/8), seemingly from a perambulation

Fol 1r Peter Norton holds freely 2 parcels of meadow lying nect to Mylgrene of the fulling mill of Neatham

Fol 1v Richard ffelder hols to himself & his heirs by indenture made by the Abbott & Convent of Waverley dated 18 Dec 10 Henry 8 (1518) the fulling mill of Neatham with the mill house and certain meadow & pasture land belonging to said mill, viz: one meadow adjoining the said mill containing 2 acres and one other meadow called Hemstake and 12 acres of land lying between the land of the Lord [*dnical*'] and the land called the Lythe. (*note in margin - This mill is purchased by the Lord Montague as appeareth by thindentuer thereof [deletion]*) He also holds other lands and pays Herriott on death of 13s and for relief 35s.

Fol 3r William Jeffery holds by copy to himself and his heirs one cottage situate on Hallyborne Strete near the Church there with one acre of land behind [*arecta*] the said cottage one parcel of meadow called Chalkecroft lying on the east part on the road which goes from the fulling mill to Neteham containing two rods of land and pays therefrom per annum vs and owes a heriot and the heir must make a fine with the Lord.

1633 Lease of two water corn mills at Neatham leased to John Burrough of London, John Chamberlain of Sherborne, Oxon and Peter Gyfford of Chillington, Staffs. from Viscount Francis Montague, owner of Neatham Manor (*mortgaged it to the above three -- he was often short of money*). Miller probably Richard Wheeler. (mentioned in former lease - yeoman.)

(*Ham.Rec.Off.39M89 / E / T33.*)

1736 Richard Peachey agrees to provide rough timber for repair of watermills at Neatham. 13 April

(*Ham.Rec.Off.39M89 / E / B560 / 3T33. Doc.3.*)

1736 Letter about repairing mills at Neatham. From Chawton 27 May 1736. describes both house and fulling mill in a ruinous state (not enough timber on Neatham Estate for repairs) etc # (*Ham.Rec.Off.39M89 / E / B587 / 13.*)

1738 Fulling Mill at Neatham - water channels for meadows. # (*Ham.Rec.Off.39M89 / E / B560 / 3T33.*)

1759 Ligge writes from Holt Forest to owner of a mill -- disagreement about water from a spring -- not enough water for the mill. 1 March 1738. # (*Ham.Rec.Off.39M89 / E / B560 / 3T33. Dec.5.*)

A steward Edward Randall wrote from Chawton saying that the fulling mill did not want for water.

Edward Randall complains about water taken by Mr Legg for mead.

Letter to Edward Knight about argument over water.

1775 Thomas Hawkins of Chawton in the Co of Hants, gardener, insures, A house and corn mills adjoining, brick built and tiled, together with running tackle therein, situated in Neatham in aforesaid county. £200. John Hallett, miller, tenant. (*Roy.Exch.Fire Ins. No.65824 - 24 July 1775*)

details from S.Beecher, Northern Wey Trust.1996) Lease also lists water corn mills, stones, wheels & dwelling. -- 28 acres meadow, pasture & woodland. Annual rent £20; quarterly payments.

Fact File

1788 William Hawkins Colemore in the Co of Hants, farmer, insures, a house, water corn millhouse and offices adjoining, together with the mills and running tackle therein, brick and tiled, situated at Neatham, Nr Alton, in the Co aforesaid. £500. Tjomas Lillywhite tenant. (*Roy.Exch.Fire Ins. No.106450 - 20 May 1788*)

1800-15 Mill is shown on Arrowsmith map. (S)

1808 Moses Fielder of Alton, Co. of Hants, baker. On his movable utensils & trade in a water corn mill house called Lillywhite's, brick & tiled, situated in tithing of Neatham in Co. aforesaid, having no steam engine in, adjoining or communicating with. £ 50. (*Roy.Exch.Fire Ins.Pol.No.238530 - 4 July 1808*) (S)

1811 Moses Fielder of Alton, Co. of Hants, baker. On his moveable utensils & trade in a water corn mill house (called Lilywhite's) situate in the tithing of Neatham, having no steam engine. £ 50. (*Roy.Exch.Fire Ins. No.262969 - 29 Sept 1811*) (S)

1817 Neatham Mill so named on 1817 map, but not shown on Greenwood map.

1818 Thomas Lilywhite of Neatham, miller. (*Ham. Marr.Licence 23 Mar.1818*) (S)

1830 - 1889 Thomas Lilywhite, Neatham Mill - recorded in 1881 - Miller & farmer of 309 acres employing 13 lab.& 2 boys. (Census)

1892 To be sold by auction by order of the trustees of the will of the late Mr Thomas Lilywhite. The attractive property known as Neatham Mill (for many years in possession or occupation of the late owner's family), comprising a residence, water corn mill with wheel of extraordinary size and power, all situate on the banks of the River Wey. To be sold at the Swan Inn, Alton on 12 July 1892. (*The Miller 6 June 1892*)

1892 Neatham Mill for sale at The Swan Hotel, Alton at 4 o'clock on Tuesday 12 July 1892. Residential and business freehold property with 10 acres of meadow. The mill, brick, timber and tiled adjoins the house. 22ft breast wheel and an overshot wheel (11ft) The water is abundant and never failing. Eight pairs of stones and shafting to other machinery. Nearby a Bone Manufactory with 8 hp beam engine driving two pairs of stones for grinding seed and bones, large bone crushing mill and two manure stores. Also numerous farm buildings and a recently erected Hop Kiln with two 16ft by 16ft drying floors. The late owner and his family have been in possession or occupation for generations. Now being sold in consequence of his death *Thomas Lillywhite. date?.*). View by application to H & F Lillywhite, Neatham Mill. (*Sale notice of J Alfred Eggar, auctioneer, Farnham and Alton.*) (*Stella Beecher*)

1895 Mrs Eliz. Andrews, miller, Neatham Mill Lane. (dir.)

1895 Denyer & Son, Neatham Flour Mill (dir.)

1897 Denyer & Son, Neatham Mills, Alton, on 30 April 1895, wrote testimonial to Joseph J Armfield & Co., Regarding 30" British Empire double horizontal turbine fixed two years ago. (*The Miller 12 July 1897*) (S)

1899 - 1939 Denyer & Son, Neatham Flour Mill (dir.)

1939 Two mills here, old and new. Old mill is black wooden building on south of present large mill. Wheel enclosed on both mills. (S)

1948 Wheels and pit gear were out 60 years ago. Had two wheels. Roller plant and a good many machines including a fan sifter by Whitmore and Binyon, Wickham Market, which was put in 1898 or 9 and has given continual good service since. Armfield turbine which has needed no attention since 1914. (turbine installed 1893) Inspected Lower Neatham Mill 11 Feb 1949 (Simmons)

Fact File

?? Ellis millers.

1960 The substantial brick bridge across the river by the mill pond was destroyed in a flood. (Stella Beecher)

1969 Neatham mill was working until recently. Brick built, white painted boarded upper part, slate roof. Covered external hoist. Separate mill house with added Georgian facade, now a private house. Mill race at present dry. Mill now used as a store. (Gaz. W, W & T Mills Hants; C.M.Ellis. SUIAG 1969)

1970 for sale as the owner has recently died

1974 marked as "Mill" on OS 50,000.

1976 Dr Weston owner. HMG party visited 16 May 1976. Dr Weston has adapted the mill for a residence in a most interesting way. Considerable remains of the breastshot wheel, which is housed inside the building, which the owner would like to restore. It is fed by an embanked stream; the head and tail races remain, also the sluices. The mill is three storey, the hoist and luccam remain, but no machinery remains in situ. (HMG)

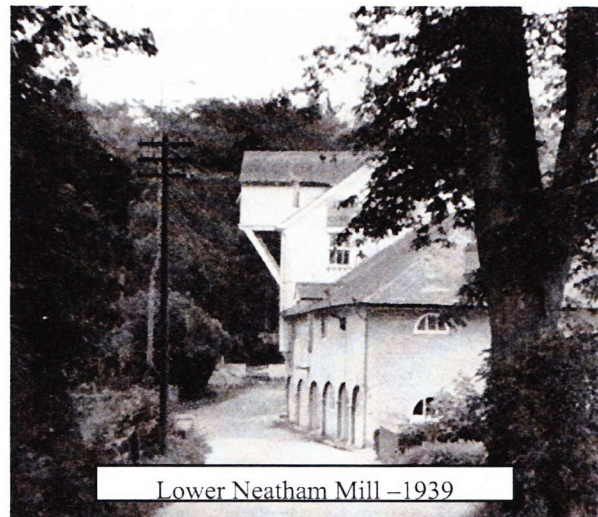
1979 The mill & mill house are separate. The brick mill house with tiled roof has a Georgian facade & is privately occupied. The mill is brick with the upper part painted weather-bound and the roof slated. It has recently been converted to a private house. A turbine is still in place and the hoist and luccam survive also the remains of the breastshot waterwheel inside the building. Power was provided by an embanked stream & the watercourse remains. (W & W Mills Hants, Monica Ellis SUIAG 1979)

1996 Neatham Mill. Dr Trevor Weston owner. The chalk block work is sound, although there has been some long term movement which has resulted in the brickwork cracking in several areas. Over-strong mortar has caused problems with the brickwork in some areas. The roof appears sound, but Mrs. Weston says it is unsupported in one corner, and certainly some of the roof timbers have been treated in a rather careless manner - before, I think, the Westons took over. They are responsible for removing the centre of the first floor, to make the double height gallery - this is supported on one side by the cut joists, repositioned, and on the other by Victorian cast-iron drainpipes. A fire destroyed an open sided shed in the yard, which has been rebuilt (rather well), but the dovecot was seriously damaged when the septic tank was put in, and the brick and timber barn at the entrance to the property, which belongs to the main mill house, not to the Westons, is in bad condition and under threat by its owner who would like to build houses there. (Judith Martin Industrial Buildings Preservation Trust Aug.1996.)

1997 Neatham Mill, Holybourne, East Hampshire, on the River Wey. Supplied by the embanked river with a by-pass channel. The mill is 4 floor, brick & timber with a slate roof. A complete house conversion (owner told us the turbine had been taken out ?). Ellis had removed machinery to Headley Mill when he stopped working here. The fabric of the mill is kept in good condition retaining its original external appearance. Unusual vertical weatherboarding from first to fourth floor. At rae, the river has been canalised and further buildings on the west bank were used in connection with the mill. Attractive site with Georgian mill house. Close to Alton by-pass. Old photographs are in the Curtis Museum. (Stidder.1997).

1999 Owners Dr & Mrs Weston who wish to get the turbine working again JS & TY visited the mill (Aug). HMG 'Heavy gang' cleared a lot of spoil from in front of the turbine. Owners joined HMG. 30" British Empire turbine, DH gates, 12ft head, anticlock, 40 hp.

Tony Yoward



Lower Neatham Mill -1939

Eling Tide Mill

Eling Tide Mill Trust are about to celebrate the completion of new tidal Sea Gates.

This is a revised, updated and condensed version of the paper I presented at the Culture 2000 Symposium in Seixal, Portugal in 2005. Entitled: The Second Restoration of Eling Tide Mill.

Long term maintenance and refurbishment never ends in a working mill. As soon as you complete one item, another is waiting or close to failure, before the other is finished. That is the reality of the only regularly productive tide mill. It is a harsh and punishing environment, taking the worst that the spring tides, inland flood water and the weather can throw at you. But Eling is a good survivor, it has been around for nearly 600 years on the same site and perhaps hundreds of years more. All it takes is a little loving care every day to survive well.

The Trustees of Eling Tide Mill are empowered to care and look after this historic industrial heritage in the best way they can, so that it mills wholemeal flour and opens to the public as an educational resource. So, from 2002, a long term programme of repairs and improvements were slowly put in hand with very little resources or funding at that time.

This commenced in late 2002 with a rebuild of the water wheel with new paddle blades, starts and tie rods in galvanised steel. A pause for more fund raising and in 2004 over 900 bricks replaced in structural walls and 30 % of pointing to brickwork completed. While later the same year the vertical storm gate was replaced complete with guide channels. This was followed by replacement of softwood windows and external doors in new oak timber on the Toll-bridge elevation. And replacement of part of the cast iron guttering into 2005. Then, the replacement of the waterwheel control, sluice gate with its guide channels. In late 2005 two cracks in the frame of the water wheel were repaired using the Metaloc process.

The latest and largest capital cost item and most problematical, has been in the redesign and construction of the traditional sea gates, to control the tidal flow and impoundment within the large tidal pond. This was outsourced by New Forest District Council to locally based, Gifford & Partners, consulting engineers.



Eling Tide Mill - Old Sea gates



Eling Tide Mill - New Sea gates

Their new design which largely follows the outline of the existing gates in dimensions are now radically different in the amount and use of galvanized steelwork and the modern motive drive train to be used. The old traditional sea gates were of oak with reinforcing steelwork which had reached the end of their structural limit. They had been patched and repaired and become unreliable. After much debate and very long lead-in to reach design conclusions and funding we were out to tender in late 2006.

Eling Tide Mill - continued

Eling New Sea Gates: Main design advantages:

The two gates have Rotork actuators of modern compact design incorporating sealed gearboxes and built in limit switches.

Fully galvanised steel framework and gate frames

Stainless steel lifting spindles with cover tubes

Safe manual interlock operation or by cordless remote hand set.

Emergency hand wheels for non electrical operation.

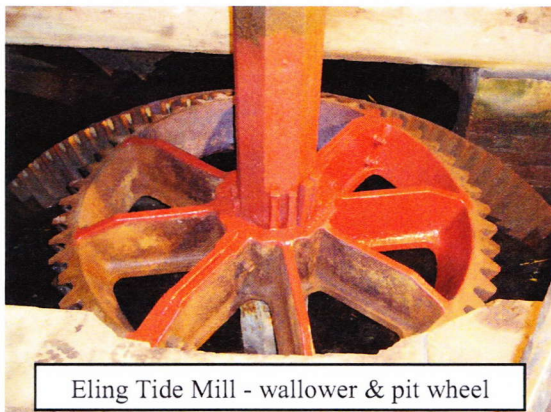
New 3 phase electrical feed pillar with safe isolation.

Improved platform and gated Mill operator access at each end.

Anti-vandalism measures, and security of cables and controls

The specification and drawings have been through a very long design and development period. At pre-tender stage in late 2006, we were still debating the positive and negative aspects of hand set operation on safety grounds. John Christmas of HMG and myself have spent many hours pouring over specifications and drawings, trying to get the best for operation and value and feeding back to the Mill Manager, NFDC and Giffords. A short list of marine contractors was prepared and tenders were dispatched before the New Year.

The selected contractor was the well respected Dean & Dyball, who passed the main gates construction onto Midland Valve in Birmingham. It was expected to have works commence in January but delays mounted and site works commenced in February. The Toll Bridge which forms the mill causeway was closed to traffic but open to pedestrians for two months. Finally, practical completion was attained in late April.



Eling Tide Mill - wallower & pit wheel

While the Mill was static with no rotational power, major repairs were put in hand to sub-tidal main gearing in the undercroft by local GHL Engineers in late March. This involved jacking up the mainshaft, removing the Armfield arch, replacing hardwood bearers, re-securing the Armfield arch, fitting a new mainshaft footstep bearing complete with new grease line. The whole main gearing needing to be realigned and recommissioned before production of flour could recommence. HMG volunteers led by Dave Plunkett have undertaken the conservation and painting, of the winding gear to water wheel, sluice gate controls.

The Mill had its first tentative restart trials in late April into May in which a few engineering snags

needed to be addressed – like re-aligning the sack hoist drive pinion and curing vibration to the hurst frame, supporting the mill stones.

Maintenance is required regularly to ensure that the tidal machinery functions safely and efficiently at all states of the tide, throughout the year. Stone dressing of the working mill stones is required about twice a year, to maintain good wholemeal flour output. Ahead into later this year, there will be renewal of the seaward debris screen. Into 2008, tidal undercroft, foundation consolidation is also required, to halt high pressure water seepage through the causeway at low tide.

This does not mean the completion of all restoration, as time and tide wait for no man. Finding the money to maintain a working tidemill like Eling is a great struggle but we shall persevere and continue to ensure that this tidemill functions for all to see for many years to come.

Should anyone reading this article wish to have further news on Eling Tide Mill, please see Web page, email the Mill Manager, or contact Dave Plunkett directly on any tide mill issues.

David Plunkett.

The HMG Mills Tour 2007

An action packed four days taking in over twenty actual visits in, up and around mills of all kinds was skillfully organised by Andy Fish from Southampton. Andy not only arranged the visits but also the hotel ("Yes, **sixteen** bedrooms please!"), shared the driving with John Silman, **and** delivered to each of us a spiral bound book of our extensive itinerary, complete with maps and descriptions.

Whether Trusts, Societies, Councils or in private ownership, all the mills we were to see were at one time derelict and are now either fully restored or still undergoing restoration. They are all excellent examples of the many types of mills (wind, water, tower, post and smock), pumps, turbines and wind engines that once worked to create the present landscape and help the East Anglian land workers to survive. Most of the mills have well recorded and histories along with documented accidents and incidents - many windmills or wind pumps being toppled over or losing their sails in strong winds gusting across the open countryside.

Members of the Norfolk Mills Trust welcomed us with a quiz night (HMG fielding the winning team!) followed by a long, sunny, afternoon barbecue where the chat really got under way. This social event with like-minded people improved on channels of communication already underway from exchanges of information over and through machinery and equipment, and so we look forward to returning the complement by hosting our Norfolk "cousins" on a trip to Hampshire mills.

On the way over to the east, at about seven miles from Bury St. Edmunds, we arrived at our first mill, just after 1 p.m. We went on to fit in a further 6, all windmills, finally collapsing into the appointed hostelry for a meal at nearly 7 o'clock. and finally arrived at our hotel about 10 p.m. **Pakenham Watermill**, is owned and run by Suffolk Preservation Society and the Curator, David Eddlesham took us over it. SPS bought it from Brian Marriage (yes, of the well known flour producing family) with the aid of an anonymous benefactor putting up "a substantial sum" after it had ceased working in 1974. **Pakenham Windmill**, a short distance away situated off the curiously named Thieves Lane (and had been viewed upriver from the watermill) sits beside the busy farmyard of Michael Bryant. Although no longer working, the sails still turn and it's this sight that used to greet early BBC television viewers in the 1950s as Intermission slots between programmes. Lottery funding was awarded in 2000 towards upkeep and restoration.

On to **Bardwell** and a welcoming cuppa from owner, Mrs. Enid Wheeler. Bardwell lost its cap and sails in the Great Storm of 1987. The cap is replaced but fund raising efforts are under way to replace the sails. Vanes can be sponsored at £25 each and a total of 192 vanes is needed. HMG promptly sponsored one and a couple of individual members followed suit. Here we had the opportunity to examine in detail the construction of the sails at ground level in the workshop. Built in 1751, one of 7 remaining Suffolk post mills (out of 300) was next at **Stanton**. Mr. & Mrs. Grixti bought the mill in it's restored state in 2004. They imported a cleaning machine from Austria - after searching the U.K. for the right size and mill flour from wheat grain, but owing to safety precautions, not when visitors are above the entry level.. From Stanton to **Thelnetham** tower mill where we were met by a member of the Sussex Mills Group.

From there to our first Norfolk site - **Garboldisham Post Mill** and owner/restorer Adrian Colman proudly showed us over. The mill's internet website contains several pages of fascinating records about the life and lives of those who have lived and worked on and around it. The last mill of the day was **Billingsford Tower Mill**. Here, Norfolk Mills Trust member, Herbert, regaled us with histrionics and memorable comments from visitors. Interesting old newspaper reports were pinned up inside recalling awful mill accidents. One was of a post mill which blew over with 2 men inside - one was found vertical and virtually unscathed amongst sacks of grain, whereas his elderly co-worker had one leg amputated and broke the other "and he is not expected to survive, so bad are his injuries plus the shock and his great age." Brrrrrh. Over to the pub.

A stroll out from our hotel before breakfast showed that we were sited quite near the seafront at the northern (residential) end of Great Yarmouth. How super to discover that right in front of us, just slightly offshore, a "wind farm" consisting of 30 **Wind Turbines** constructed in 2003. Each capable of an output of 2 megawatts and measuring 60 metres high, with 40 metre blades they are expected to produce a combined 200 megawatts supplying 41,000 homes. Well, we notched up more mills with these but not the first wind turbine as we saw the one at Reading beside the M4 on our way over.

Driving from Gt. Yarmouth to Letheringsett, we stopped off at two Broads sites, **Stracey Arms Wind Pump**, now a convenient mooring point, and **Horse Wind Pump** (NT). Some members popped up the footpath to another mill along that stretch of water. **Stowaka Paston Windmill** is on the old, coast road just below Happisburgh - now famous for its rapidly crumbling coastline. How long before the windmill becomes the first of its kind to topple into the North Sea this century?

The HMG Mills Tour 2007 continued

So, on to the only flour producing watermill in the whole of Norfolk. The recently celebrated owner of **Letheringsett Watermill**, Mike Thurlow, gave an illuminating and entertaining discourse as he guided us over this large, and commercially successful, watermill. Normally run as breastshot, the wheel can be changed to undershot if the water level falls too much. Mike cannot produce enough of the different types of flour sold in his shop, demand is so great and it was a surprise to learn that he contracts the likes of Doves and Marriages to mill for him. Mike is rightly proud of his achievements in restoring the mill and learning about milling which has led to his recent success as national winner of the UK TV Food Heroes Award in 2006 and netted him winnings of £40,000 which he has used to purchase 2 sets of granite milling stones from Holland and a complex fire alarm system. He equally prizes the great fortune of a recent storm casualty in the shape of a neighboring hornbeam tree; normally hard to find, this will come in useful for repair work at a later date.

Gunton Park Sawmill, originally built in the 1820s to provide sawn timber for the 12,000 acre Gunton Hall Estate, is unique amongst surviving mills in Norfolk. The timber framework has a hipped roof topped with Norfolk reed thatch. A head of water set several feet above the mill building, whooshes down steep sluice channels and through a guillotine gate to the power the two breastshot wheels each measuring 12ft diameter x 5ft wide. The main 6ft 6" flywheel driving the reciprocating saw is powered by one wheel whilst the other provides power for a circular saw and ancillary equipment including a small corn mill. Work at the mill ceased in the 1950s and by 1976 it was derelict. The Norfolk Windmills Trust, alerted by the Norfolk Industrial Archaeological Society, bought the sawmill in 1979; the two organisations worked together on restoration. Members of NIAS gave us an excellent sawing demonstration as they do every fourth Sunday in each month.

It had been hoped to have an inside look at the famous Broads landmark, the 9 storied **Sutton Tower Mill**, but it is closed, having been on the estate agent's books for a couple of years priced at £1.5million. Sad to relate, this mill looks in a poor state and rumour has it that it is now acting as a storage building.

A mystery drive took us to uncharted back lanes off the main road to Potter Heigham at Repps by Bastwick and through a farmyard to find **Morse's Wind Engine Park**. What a delightful sight met the eye! A wonderful collection of skeletal wind pumps from various continents alongside oil driven engines for diverse uses garnered here by Bob Morse, whose father had made model engines. Bob died in January of this year, after a long illness, knowing that we were to visit his collection in April. Debra Nicholson has become the caretaker of the park and demonstrated all the machines with fond exuberance and the wise heads of HMG examined and pondered over bits which had been puzzling her. It was here that the Norfolk Mills Trust joined with us for the barbecue; the sun shone, the birds sang, the wind engines whirled, we all talked for hours and all was well with the world.

Thurne Dyke Wind Pump, another of Bob Morse's acquisitions (in 1947) was next on the list; Bob was joined in the restoration from its very derelict condition by Albert England, a direct descendent of a well known line of millwrights, England of Ludham, the original builders of the mill in 1820. Although the major restoration work was completed in 2002, the turbine pump still awaits repair. This brick drainage mill is unusual in that it is painted white. A drive through Ludham to Howe Hill Nature Reserve afforded footpaths to **St. Benet's Level Drainage Mill** and the skeletal drainage mills, **Clayrack and Boardmans**. On Howe Hill itself stands a sail-less black, brick built tower mill which is let as a holiday home - don't rush, it's all booked up until November!



Well Debra - It could be a

The HMG Mills Tour 2007 continued

The last day of our Norfolk Mills Tour had us gadding off to the Cambridge shire Fens! First port of call was **Stretham Old Engine House** - the earliest and finest example of a land drainage steam engine erected in 1831 with a 37 ft diameter scoop-wheel. Having replaced four wind-pumps it in turn is replaced by an electric pump located over a mile away. Demonstrations are now by means of an electrical drive fitted to the flywheel. The Stretham Engine Trust was formed in 1988 and obtained a 99 year lease from the Waterbeach Level Internal Drainage Board. Recently, the Trust sold the Stoker's Cottage (much in its original state) to the Landmark Trust who have stated that they will carry out a "gentle refurbishment" costing £70,000 before renting it as a holiday let. (Presumably this means installing an indoor toilet.). A tower windmill which produces flour, **Denver Mill** was visited after a look at the **Denver Sluices** where the locks were being operated to allow a couple of boats through into the Fens from the Wash.



Morse Wind Engine Park

Wicken Corn Windmill owned and under restoration since 1987 by Wicken Windmill Preservation Group. Literally just down the road, was the National Trust's **Wicken Fen Wind Pump** (and tea room) which completed our four days of mills.

The travelers gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the Norfolk Mills Trust, all private mill owners, Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society, Stretham Engine Trust, the National Trust but most of all the outstanding organisation undertaken by Andy Fish, Ruth for her navigating, Alison for her hon. Treasuring and, of course, John Silman as co-driver, cadger of the minibus and general educator. The trip was a pleasure despite the rotten bumps in the roads. We all enjoyed good company and much shared humour. OK chaps - where to next?

Sheila Miles Viner - HMG Member

I'll always remember this lovely weekend
Of shinning up windmills
And making new friends
I thank you, you millers,
Who've helped me to spend
Four days of laughter
This lovely weekend.

The comfort stops frequently Tesco's provide
Eased our long journeys
On each daily ride
Mill owners, enthusiasts,
Money to spend!
All blended together
This lovely weekend.

My thanks to the drivers
And dear "Sat Nav Ruth"
Whose teamwork worked wonders
To tell you the truth
Yes, thank you, you madcaps
Who've helped me to spend
Four days in Norfolk
This lovely weekend.

Written on the minibus on the homeward journey
and sung to the incarcerated passengers before I
exited. My apologies for the artistic license to
Vera Lynn and the chap who wrote the original hit
song in wartime.

Sheila Miles Viner - MG Member

HMG Web Site - www.hampshiremills.org

We have been getting a steady 1800 to 2000 visitors per month over the first four months of the year, this is nearly double the number we were getting at the same time in 2006. The site has a page on activities of HMG with photos of our members at work in various projects, and this is refreshed regularly so keep looking !

Some of the messages from people making enquiries makes gratifying reading :

- ◇ "I have just been exploring your fascinating website and discovered that you have a number of my family listed. I would be very grateful if you could tell me if you have any further information on the following ..."
- ◇ "Thank you very much for the information just received, it is of great interest to me ,,"
- ◇ "I was wondering if you have any information regarding Edward Barker, that is listed as Dying in about 1778 and his mill etc. sold in 1779 and also the source of the information? Isn't Hampshire near Nottingham? (!!!)
- ◇ "Thanks so much, this is a big help."
- ◇ "Hello from Melbourne Australia! I was most interested to come across (by Googleing) the website Hampshire Mills as I have discovered several Hampshire ancestors who are described as millers or mealmen."

Ashok Vaidya

News & Letters

Visit to House Mill & Crossness Pumping Station - Members of HIAS have also been invited to join us for this trip. The date has been set for Sunday 16th September because it is hoped that the pump will be in steam on this day.

The event is being organised jointly by Nigel Smith and John Silman and the cost will be (in the region of) £15 per head but will be dependent on numbers. Further information will be available at the Summer Meeting when a deposit will be required.

Editor

Water power found many uses in the mills of Hampshire besides being used for the production of flour. Perhaps one of the most unusual was the use of a water turbine driven by the sewage as it flowed out to the sea at Fort Cumberland at Portsmouth. The power recovered was sufficient to operate the sluices.

Does anyone have any information on this unusual use? Or can you cap it?

Tony Yoward

Extract from SPAB Mill News, April 2007.

The Grade II Beaulieu Tide Mill, suffered badly last year at the hands of an arsonist who was never caught in spite of the offer of a reward. A year on, the Beaulieu Estate have confirmed that work is about to start on a massive restoration scheme. Repairs are going to cost in the region of £500,000. The aim is to preserve as much of the original building as possible. The work of the Hampshire Mills Group was highly praised by the agent, saying volunteers came down every weekend to sift through the ashes and help salvage anything that they could.

News & Letters

The MRG (Mills Research Group). - Chairman's update

The next MRG conference will be at Peterborough Museum this year from 6th to 7th October. Early details from the Hon Secretary (Guy Blythman) or from Dave Plunkett (chairman)

David Plunkett.

“Unlock the power of waves and currents” One Edinburgh based company (Ocean Power Delivery) has developed Pelemis, a floating plant that uses wave and current motion to drive a set of turbines. Last summer (2006) three of the machines began work off the coast of Portugal and hooked into the power grid. The machines lie low in the water and so should prove more popular than the unsightly offshore wind farms. The US is currently lagging behind Europe in this technology.

From a 2006 extract in Business Week, by Adam Aston:

Mill House, 17 Mill Road, Denmead. (SU6640 5302).

A record was made of around half of the foundations of the 19th century mill known to have stood on this site, and the footings of two other walls from structures known from cartographic sources. (Sean Wallis and Andy Taylor).

From CBA Wessex News, April 2007. Hampshire

Tide Mills of Western Europe has been selected to participate in an exhibition as part of Green Week 2007. It is to be held in Brussels from the 12th to 15th June 2007. David and I are hoping to visit the exhibition on our way back to the UK by rail mid June.

Ros

Did Milling celebrate it's Birth 23,000 years ago?

Recent research shows strong evidence that the practice of milling wheat and barley into cereals began about 23,000 years ago, long before humans cultivated grain crops. Archaeologists from Harvard University, the Smithsonian Institution and University of Haifa, found evidence of milling at a site called Ohalo II, located in present day Israel and known from previous research to be 23,000 years old. The archaeologists located the evidence in the mud along the Sea of Galilee's south west-ern shore.

In the remains of a hut, they found 150 starch granules buried in the crevice of a one foot long stone, which they believe was used to grind grains.

Comprehensive studies of the starch molecules revealed that more than half were from the family that includes barley and wheat. No starches from roots or tubers were found lodged in the stone, suggesting it was used only as a cereal processing implement. Also found at the site was evidence of a stone hearth like oven. This black-ened area was covered with a mixture of ashes and bar-ley grains, suggesting that dough made from grain flour was baked there.

The University noted that the research sheds light on two issues central to the transition from foraging to food pro-duction: when humans began to routinely exploit wild varieties of wheat and barley, and when they first devel-oped technologies to pound and grind the hard, fibrous seeds of these and other plants into digestible foodstuffs.

Extract by Chris Gillis from "Old Mill News"

TRAINING for Millwrights

There is a shortage of experienced millwrights who can maintain traditional windmills and watermills in good order. Until now there has been no formal training or qualification for millwrights in the UK.

The SPAB is offering an intensive six-month Fellowship in building and millwrighting to encourage new people into this field.

If you like the idea of working on historic buildings and you have building or engineering experience, find out more by contacting the SPAB:

Rachel Bower, Education Officer, SPAB
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News & Letters

Mill at Rude, Croatia

On a recent visit to Croatia, we were being shown villages around the small town of Samobor, 20km from Zagreb. Reaching the small settlement of Rude, we paused to enjoy some spring flowers and I spotted a waterwheel by the roadside. "That's a mill" came the cry and our somewhat bemused friends stopped the car and everyone got out.

Sure enough, a small mill building nestled on a slope. It was clear from the condition of the overshot wheel that the mill was no longer operating, although water still flows over it.



Our local friend spoke to an old man who was watching us with curiosity, and explained the interest. He confirmed that the mill dated from 1843 and had worked until about 10 years ago, grinding for the village. By now, I was trying to look in the window, so was delighted when the gentleman invited us to have a look inside.

As you will see from the photograph, the machinery remained, with the hopper and stones in place. Our guide explained that the mill produced rough flour - from his description, we think it was a semolina type quality.



What a pity "Greater Hampshire" cannot reach to Croatia - this would be a good candidate for some TLC and would give a good example in a country where industrial heritage is not really valued. But we're on the case on that one. Croatia is very keen to do anything that encourages tourism.

Pam Moore – HMG Member



