

Hampshire Mills Group Newsletter



No. 75 Winter 2006

www.hampshiremills.org

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John Silman being presented with his award by Gareth Hughes
Chairman of the SPAB - Mills Section

HMG Dates for your Diary

Friday 15th December - HMG Christmas Meeting at City Mill, Winchester, commencing at 7.30pm. As usual, there will be an American supper.

Dates for 2007

Saturday 20th March - Spring Meeting at Longbridge Mill, 2:00pm - 3:30pm. Basil Hunt will present a slide talk. Milling from 12 noon - 2.00pm.

Saturday 16th or 23rd June - Summer Meeting at Neatham Mill, 2:00pm

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th September - National Heritage Weekend

Saturday 22nd September - Autumn Meeting and AGM at Botley Mills, 2:00pm

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.

19th (amended) - 22nd April 2007 - Proposed Norfolk Tour.

11th (amended) - 15th October 2007 - Proposed trip to visit Mills in Belgium.

More information about both these events will be available soon.

HMG Committee Meetings 2007 - (all Thursdays)

22nd February, 17th May, 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

You will very quickly discover, as you trawl through the following pages, that this edition is very much a tribute to our Chairman, John Silman. I make no apology for this as I believe that recognition of his work and commitment is very welcome. I just want to know what he does in his spare time!!!

Partly due to the success of the meeting at Kingsley Mill but also because many members expressed a preference for day time meetings (especially during the colder, shorter days), the decision has been taken to arrange all of the 2007 meetings for Saturday afternoons. Obviously, the Committee welcome your comments and will make a decision regarding 2008 meetings once we know the views of the majority.

Once again, I thank those members who continue to supply me with interesting articles to publish. Unfortunately, I have not been able to include everything this time but you can be sure that every effort will be made to "catch up" in future editions.

Mick Edgeworth has provided me with two pages of additions to the HMG Library. Due to lack of space, I am unable to include both pages in this edition but I will publish the second page in the Spring edition.

Finally, may I wish all our members and friends a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2007

Ros

John Anthony Barnes, 1927 - 2006

I had met John at the Newcomen Society meetings at the Science Museum but I really got to know him when he asked me to help organising the Newcomen visit to Hampshire in 1993. He had that wonderful laid back way of dealing with things. It was always, 'if that falls through we can still find an alternative', and he always did. The smile and the good humour never left him and he was so easy to work with. The visit was a resounding success and I shall never forget a lady in the party being lifted onto one of the Forts in the Solent, especially when a ferry passed as she was being lifted back into the heaving boat. John just smiled.

He would often tell me how his grandson had been helping him in his workshop. Little did I know that his engineering knowledge began in the days when his father was starting a motor car engineering business in the early 1930s and that is where he absorbed a great deal of practical engineering knowledge, in the days when motor engineering was more than just replacing parts.

He graduated in Mechanical Engineering from Kings College, London, and worked on gas turbine engine research at the National Gas Turbine Establishment near Farnborough.

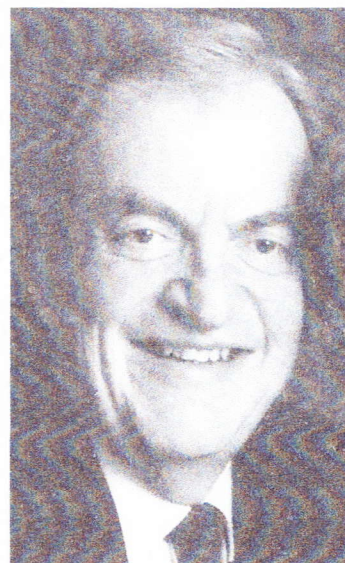
It was while working there that he met and married Janet. Later he moved to Power Jets (R & D) Ltd, which involved experimental work at Ricardo's in Shoreham. When Power Jets closed down in 1967, John moved to Imperial College, London, where he spent the remainder of his working life in the Mechanical Engineering Department.

He was a member of the Newcomen Society, the Treasurer for several years and President from 1991 to 1993.

He joined the Hampshire Mills Group in the early 1990s and was very interested in the Crux Easton wind pump of John Wallis Titt and had hoped that he would be able to be more involved but it was not to be. He always attended the mills meetings when possible and his declining health did not prevent him from visiting Sadlers Mill at Romsey this Summer where he managed to get all round the mill: a very determined man.

John died on 22 September 2006, aged 79, and is survived by his wife Janet, his son Martin, daughter Caroline and several grandchildren, to whom we offer our condolences.

I shall miss that beaming smile and kind words when ever we met.



Tony Yoward

Chairman's Diary

Saturday 1st September - I spent a very pleasant day with John Lovell displaying a selection of his scale model mills. Talked to many people and handed out invitations to join etc..

Sunday 3rd September - I thought you all might like to hear about Quidhampton Mill near Overton which Mick and I visited in late August.. The mill belongs to Messrs de la Rue, the paper makers, and was once part of the Portals empire.. We were called by the Quantity Surveyor appointed by de la Rue to repair the roof of this small mill, to approve of his suggested repairs and we wholeheartedly agreed with his proposals. The mill, two storeys only has two waterwheels. One drives the millstones, the other (very small) one, once drove a pump to take water to Portals' works. The mill is substantially complete except for the very shaky roof and is a "little gem". Once the roof is OK, we hope to be able to clean the place out and, maybe, we will be able to use part of the building for storage of equipment etc.. Anyhow, a visit for all will be arranged. It would be good to have a northern depot, as it were.

Saturday 9th September - Margaret and I met our friend who lives in Pennsylvania and, after a tour of Wiltshire, we enjoyed lunch in a Gt. Bedwyn pub and then visited Wilton Windmill only to find that it was, yet again, closed to the public.

Wednesday 13th September - I attended the September committee meeting of the SPAB (Mill Section).

Thursday 14th September - 10:00am, to Totton Civic Centre to assist David Plunkett ref. manning the Exhibition of material on "Tidemills of Western Europe". I thought it was a very interesting and informative layout with many clear and concise answers to the sort of questions that are mainly asked about tide mills. I was sorry that not many people came as they missed a great show.

Friday 15th September - 11:00am, to Headley Mill, Bordon in order to help with the final fittings and adjustments of the water wheel following the fitting of thirty seven new cor-ten steel buckets to the wheel. By mid afternoon, a new tooth had been inserted into the stone nut and final adjustments made. Water was put on the wheel and away she went! Running smoothly and evenly. Quite a feather in the caps of the Heavy Gang and JC. Well done all.

Saturday 16th September - Simply delightful meeting of HMG members at Diana Szumlicka's Kingsley Mill. Members brought picnics and enjoyed them in the grounds and then the meeting was held on the upper floor of the mill. We were so disappointed that Diana was not able to be with us as she was still in hospital. However, I understand that her surgical procedures went very well and she is making a good recovery. Many thanks Diana.

Wednesday 20th September - Spoke to the Mid. Thorngate Society at East Dean resulting in a donation for HMG.

Friday 22nd September - To Market Harborough with Margaret to take up our berths on "Alrewas Angel" or alcoholics anon., on the Leicester section of the Grand Union Canal.

Super seven day holiday on the canal. Up and down the ten lock Foxton Flight, a visit to the Welford Arm and the Grand Union Main Line with super weather all the way.

Tuesday 26th September - Mick & Basil attended meeting at Longbridge Mill with owners and contractors.

Sunday 1st October - Another delightful afternoon on a visit for members to Itchen Stoke Mill. We were very kindly invited by our members Roger & Victoria Harrison who own the mill and the surrounding water meadows which they have restored turning the area into a paradise for wild life. We inspected the mill then walked part of the water meadows and finally we were treated to a superb tea with everything home made and so tasty! Roger and Victoria, thank you so much.

Following the visit, a number of us went to Hockley Mill to investigate the crack in the pit wheel. Photographs taken then proved short on contrast and a further visit was arranged.

Sunday 8th October - Work continued on the fitting of paddles at Timsbury and now there are only seven more to do. There's also the little matter of another water control sluice to build and the fittings for the fountain to obtain and build. We should finish this Autumn if there are no unexpected snags.

Wednesday 11th October - Spoke to the Southampton Holiday Fellowship on "The History of Milling". This was well received and resulted in another cheque for HMG funds.

Friday 13th October - Today, I met Jeanette Emery, the new owner of Hursley Post Office, who hopes to sell some of our flour from Longbridge.

Chairman's Diary *continued...*

Saturday 14th October - On behalf of HMG, I was delighted to attend the Autumn meeting of COGS. This is a meeting intended to give mills groups and other single mill support organisations, the opportunity to interact with SPAB on matters causing concern. The Spring meeting is held at SPAB offices in London but the Autumn meeting moves around and, this time, we were at Graham Dean's delightful mill at Somerton in Somerset. Graham (Mill Section Hon. Treasurer) was kind enough to give us a tour of the mill and its water supply as well as milling some flour. This was followed by the meeting which proved very interesting although, I wish more groups would send delegates.

Thursday 19th October - I spoke on "The History of Milling" to Bitterne Church Men's Fellowship and again this was well received and a cheque for group funds was passed to the Treasurer.

Sunday 22nd October - I worked at Timsbury in the morning before attending a meeting of the Crux Easton Wind Engine Conservation Trust in the afternoon. Work at Timsbury included more fitting of paddles and fitting the hand control for the bypass sluice control. We try very hard to be well equipped and safety conscious but accidents occasionally happen and, this time, Fred was the unlucky one. Recent rain had caused the already fitted paddles to swell and jam against the side of the wheel pit. Several of us were trying to move the wheel when, suddenly, it jerked free and Fred, being at the end of the line, flew backwards and downwards into about two and a half feet of water. Apart from some bruised ribs and a thorough wetting, Fred was OK and Mick, who keeps a complete set of dry clothes in his car, came to Fred's rescue so that he could continue working. No harm done this time but a reminder to look carefully at safety procedures.

Monday 23rd October - Tony has kindly said that I can use his power point equipment when I speak to SPAB on November 11th and today he and I made a start on my forty minute talk. I must say that the marvels of modern science are very helpful. Thanks Tony.

Tuesday 24th October - Five of us went to Hockley Mill to meet Nigel and Angela to haul the wheel round to expose the crack in the pit wheel for Nigel to photograph so that John Christmas can show it to companies who may be able to quote for repairs. This did not prove to be as difficult as I thought it might have been.

In the afternoon, I went to Chilland Mill (it's just in Martyr Worthy) to meet John Browning, an

architect who is supervising work on the house and the mill with a view to getting the Gilkes turbine back in working order. The turbine is the only reminder that this was once a busy mill in a largely agricultural area. The owners would like to see the turbine running again and preferably driving a generator. Further report will follow.

Thursday 26th October - Went to Longbridge Mill to meet Basil, Fred, Mick, Carol and Eleanor to try to repeat shots of the girls working inside the water wheel for my talk at SPAB. Due to a problem with Basil's camera, no suitable pictures resulted so I will have to use other pictures.

Friday 27th October - Went with Tony and Mick to look again at Bindon Mill for the SPAB. Met representatives of the Estate, English Heritage, the Architects etc.. We identified and offered to collect the individual parts of a French Burh bedstone hidden in the nettles. We also settled what milling items I felt should be retained in the mill.

Saturday 28th October - Following all the work that has been carried out at Longbridge Mill (thanks, Mr Whitbread) the monthly milling was a celebration to mark the reopening of the mill and was a busy, busy day, helped in no small way by the presence of a camera crew from Meridian Television News. This was arranged after Sheila Viner advised them of the reopening.

They filmed everybody from all angles, from Brian to the Heavy Gang, and were the most charming and least intrusive of their ilk that we have ever met. The subsequent news item (I am told) was very good. It was recorded by Sheila and I hope to see it one of these days. A very good day's milling, with the machinery running very smoothly, was enjoyed by many visitors and more flour was sold over the bar counter than ever before. My thanks to all for a hard days work.

Tuesday 31st October - A good turn out of the Heavy Gang (Mick, Basil, Fred, Keith Ruth and yours truly) were at Wherwell Mill to help Tony (contractor) to fit a new weed screen. The very heavy screen was manhandled into the garden. The position it will fit into was de-mudded and cleared of obstructions. The screen was fitted with brackets, eased into position and bolted home. The only real problem was that Tony had only brought wellingtons so he actually worked up to his thighs in wellies and had to keep emptying his boots. Even stopping for Janet Marsh's excellent coffee, we still finished by lunch time and went our separate ways. I had lunch with Nigel & Angela in the White Hart in Stockbridge. I can recommend it for both food and drinks.

Chairman's Diary *continued...*

Friday 3rd November - Work in the tail race at Longbridge Mill, clearing back the extensive summer growth of weed. Hard work for the usual gang of Mick, Basil, Fred and me, this time joined by Rupert Dawnay. Thank you gentlemen for unglamorous, wet and cold work up to your knees (or further) in the stream.

Tuesday 7th November - I had the pleasure of addressing the Bournemouth Museums and Arts Society on the "History of Milling". Another donation to our funds.

Friday 10th November - I attended an SPAB committee meeting at Spital Square.

Saturday 11th November - SPAB Autumn meeting on "Amateur Millwrights". A very good meeting. I was delighted and honoured to receive a Watermill Certificate from my peers. Whilst it was given to me, I feel I must thank all the members of HMG without whom this recognition would not have been possible.

May I also pay tribute to my dear wife, Margaret, who so often finds me missing at weekends when I should be shopping or cooking the Sunday lunch!! Thank you dear for being so understanding. May I also thank the Officers and Committee of SPAB for conferring this unexpected honour upon me.

Thursday 16th November - Attended a HMG Committee meeting where I learnt that our application to become a charity has been successful. Further details at our Christmas meeting.

Friday 17th November - With John Leader of HIAS to M & S Hire, to look at possible purchase or hire of scaffolding. Thanks to John for this opportunity.

Monday 20th November - To the Millwrights meeting with SPAB at Spital Square. This turned out to be a very good meeting with professional millwrights describing their current and past work in various wind and watermills all over Britain and the near continent.

Thursday 23rd November - Spoke to Eastleigh History Society on the History of Milling. A pleasant evening at my local history society.

Saturday 25th November - To Longbridge Mill for the monthly milling with the usual gang of HMG members busy about the mill. As not too much flour had been sold, we only needed to mill some eighty kilos of flour to refill the pub's coffers for sale over the bar. Fred and I spent most of the afternoon sorting out and marking (with coloured paint) all the keys and padlocks for the mill.

Sunday 26th November - At the request of David Plunkett, Mick and I went to Eling Tide Mill to see if we could help the Mill Manager who was having trouble with the mill's sea gates. They were jamming and, eventually, the drive belt on the electric motor on the shoreward side, gave up the ghost and snapped. Between the three of us, we managed to get the drive shafts back in line with a new drive belt on the electric motor. The weather was pretty foul and we got a bit wet but the gate is back at work now and will hopefully last until the new gates arrive in 2007.

That's all for now. See you at the Christmas Meeting at City Mill Winchester. If you are unable to be there, then may I and all the Committee wish you a Happy Christmas and a good New Year. See you in 2007.

John Silman

Watermill Certificate

For those of you who can't find your magnifying glass, the wording on the certificate reads:

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings Mills Section
A record of the Society's appreciation of zeal
in the maintenance of these beautiful structures
awarded to John Silman

The following explanatory note has been provided by Simon Hudson, Secretary of the SPAB Mills Section:

"John is the first recipient of the new design SPAB Watermill Certificate. The artwork for this was created by Nick Hirst an SPAB scholar who has also created the art work for the new SPAB Mills Section Membership leaflet a copy of which is included in this newsletter. If you are not a member of the SPAB Mills Section please consider joining. The Mills Section is the national amenity society with responsibility for Mills. If you are already a member of the Mills Section please use it to encourage someone who is not a member to join."

Simon Hudson

Fact File

John Silman - more properly - Christopher John Silman

Born - Too long ago - 4th December 1934

The son of farming folk, an only child, at Lower Woodcott Farm, Woodcott.

The thousand acre farm was a mixed producer owned by the Nicholson family who were gin distillers at House & Clock Mills at Bromley by Bow. We kept South Devon cattle, Hampshire Down sheep, Wessex Saddleback pigs and Golden Bronze turkeys. A large comfortable farm house completed the picture. My father was the farm bailiff and responsible for the profits or otherwise!

My first school was Whitchurch Infants but after two terms, we moved to Lower Upham (yes, there is such a place) but I attended Durley School. Father then worked as an inspector for Hampshire War Agricultural Executive Committee with the unenviable task of telling Hampshire farmers what parts of their farm they must plough up for the "war effort".

The war years consisted of long, long days with many people billeted on us for accommodation and the house doors never locked for over six years. The only time I felt frightened was late in the war when VI Buzz Bombs (pilotless planes) began coming over and one night, one dropped some ¼ mile behind our home, but it looked as if it would come down much closer. My mother ran down the garden to get away and ran right through my father's newly planted row of runner beans!! He was furious. I was just scared.

Before the war ended, we were involved in a serious road accident north of Winchester on the A34. I was the most seriously injured, somehow collecting a fractured skull. This resulted in an eight week stay in the Children's ward at Winchester hospital. At the time, no visits were allowed by parents at all. Never mind, having to lie on my back without getting out of bed for weeks on end resulted in me growing 1½ inches and almost reaching six foot.

School for the next year was Form 1A at Hedge End Secondary Modern which I much enjoyed, coming third in the whole school results for the academic year. This encouraged my brave and generous parents to decide that I should go to Greggs Grammar School in Winn Road, Southampton which I attended until I was sixteen. Cricket was my game where I learned to bowl legbreaks and batted at number 11 (only 'cos there wasn't a 12).

I left school with 5 O' levels, joined the Merchant Navy in February 1952 and went to their training ship "Vindicatrix" an ex three masted, full rigged, sailing ship. The name on her bell was "Arranmore" and she was full of cockroaches. She was moored in the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal and was the toughest experience of my life. The food was awful (I've never eaten black pudding since). No sheets or pillowcases were issued and the three very thin blankets were changed just once in twelve weeks. At first (in February) we slept in double tier bunks in wooden huts. I had a top bunk under a broken window and often woke up with snow on my pillow!

After training, I joined the Union-Castle Co and completed six voyages to South Africa in the 26,000 ton "Capetown Castle". My idea had been to take a mates ticket by studying on board but this proved to be very difficult and I decided on a change of direction.

On 12th February 1953, I enlisted in the Royal Air Force in the trade of Motor Boat Crew for five years. RAF basic training was very easy after my MN experiences. The training was at RAF Bridgenorth and lasted ten weeks. The best thing was getting my marksmans badge. Even that was pretty easy for a lad who'd lived on a farm with guns often in use.

My trade training took place over 12 weeks at RAF Calshot from April to July 1953 and I see from my discharge book that I trained in lifesaving, knots & splices in both rope and wire, anchoring and coxing all types of RAF craft. I also spent ten days firing rifles, Sten guns, Bren guns and throwing grenades.

On satisfactory results from the course, I was posted with a friend (Bob Young) to RAF Thorney Island in Chichester Harbour where I remained until my discharge on 11th February 1958. During that period, I was detached once to RAF Mountbatten (Plymouth) to be trained as a coxswain ie. skipper a small craft. Six of the runways end over water at Thorney and my major craft was a 48 foot assault landing craft left over from the war. This launch was armour plated over top and sides but 5 ply on the bottom and drew only one foot six inches forrad and two foot three inches aft so it was ideal for the shallow waters of the large harbour.

Much happened to me while in the RAF including picking up air crew whose helicopter crashed in the Channel and meeting Commander Crabb, the frogman. I learned to sail and to race under sail, carried out much research into life saving aids for aircrew and rented a brand new racing dinghy for 10 shillings a month

Fact File



John (on the right) with his old landing craft

In 1958, after leaving the RAF, I decided to try selling and landed a job selling trucks, vans and cars for the Austin agents in Southampton.

It was soon after this that I married my wife, Margaret. We had met while I was at Thorney Island. Margaret comes from neighbouring Hayling Island.

I started work as a trainee salesman at Carey & Lambert Ltd. For £6-10s-0d a week with no commission and no company car either. When I left, seven years later, I was Truck Sales Manager of a very successful organisation. After a disagreement with the Sales Director, I left the retail side of the motor trade and joined a manufacturer of hydraulic rams and steel tipper bodies and worked pretty happily for the next 24 years and 10 months.

I came to be interested in Wind and Watermills via canals and Industrial Archaeology. I was going from Amersham to Hayling Island to see Margaret and travelling rather too quickly when I went over a hump backed bridge so fast that my front wheels came off the ground giving me a nasty fright. I walked back to the bridge and looked over the parapet wondering why the bridge was so humped. Below me was a small stretch of weedy water. I had found the Basingstoke Canal. A little research set me off to look into a transport system that, at its greatest size, covered almost three thousand miles. This became a major interest and we have continued our study and take pleasure in holidays on the system. You can, after all, travel from Godalming in Surrey to Ripon in Yorkshire without going into salt water!

Canals led to a general interest in Industrial Archaeology and particularly in agricultural history including Wind and Watermills. Gavin Bowie took me to quite a few mills, especially windmills in Sussex and this continued to be a particular interest. During my time as Chairman of Southampton University IA Group, I was asked if I would chair a newly suggested Hampshire Mills Group. I remember a certain David Plunkett being very keen to start this new "interest" group. I said I would do it for one year! Over thirty years later, I seem somehow to still be in office.

Outside of mills and IA, I have a delightful and understanding wife and two lovely daughters. I am Chairman of a Southampton based cricket club (another thirty plus years stint of duty). I have served, for some years, on the SPAB Mill Section Committee and this has enabled me to meet some of the most enthusiastic and committed people in Britain.

In October 1957, at the height of the "Asian flu" epidemic, I contracted Meningitis. Luckily, I was on weekend leave and my father finally found a doctor to come and see me as I was unconscious. I remember none of this but I woke up two or three days later in a very small room unable to move my arms or legs and the window had bars on it! Apparently I had become very violent and even smashed one of the nurses against a wall. After fourteen days of daily lumbar punctures and many, many syringes of antibiotics, I was declared cured but told not to exert myself in any way!!



John and Margaret Silman

Fact File

Our worthy Editor, Ros, says she has a lot of information on my past but not much about my present (mills apart). So here goes, just a little bit about what I get up to nowadays.

Ros has noted that I seldom do anything about mills on Wednesdays and that's because I'm usually driving a fifteen seater bus for Eastleigh Voluntary Transport Service, taking elderly folk shopping at Asda or Tesco.

I very much enjoy this work and I love to hear them chatting behind me as I know some of them have not spoken to another human since last week on the bus and, of course, I hope someone will do the same for me when the dreaded day comes and I can't drive myself.

In addition to driving several days on most weeks, I serve on a few committees viz. HMG, Hampshire Industrial Archaeology Society, SPAB (Mill Section) and Eastleigh Consultative Transport Committee. I am also a Trustee of Crux Easton Wind Engine.

I am a member of the National Trust, Southampton Canal Society, the Air Sea Rescue & Marine Craft Society. Finally, as you know I'm a GOPHER for the skilled members of the Heavy Gang and I mow the lawn occasionally!

Happy Christmas and a Restoration New Year

John Silman

The HMG Web Site - www.hampshiremills.org

We have had a steady growth in visitors to the website over the year, with 15,000 expected by the end of December, which is very gratifying as it shows that our group and its activities are of interest to a lot of people.

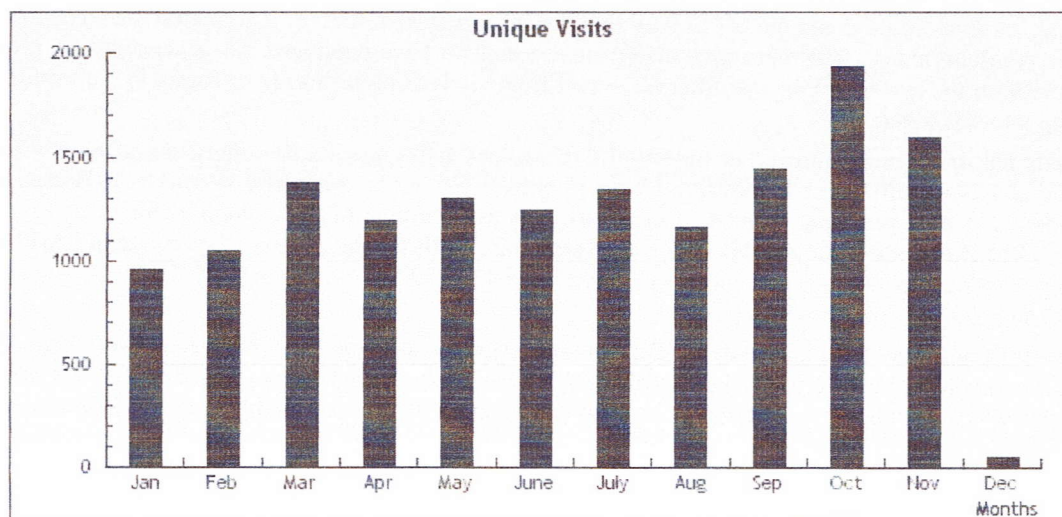
Tony Yoward has fielded the bulk of the enquiries we have had from people who are trying to find out more about their ancestors and these have come from all over the world.

We have also helped place Mill models where someone has not been able to finish the construction or where space has run out.

A regular search of all the planning applications in Hampshire is being made to alert us to upcoming work proposed on Mills. This involves checking approximately 400 applications a week! Fortunately this can be done on line – otherwise it would be an impossible task.

A reminder that members can have an email account which would give them the address yourname@hampshiremills.org. Contact me if you want this set up.

Ashok Vaidya



Your News & Letters

Tidemills of Western Europe, the UK Touring Exhibition of 2006.

Before coming to the UK in late August 2006, this exhibition of 16 wall mounted panels had spent six months in Belgium under the care of Frans Brouwers. Before that, at the Moulin du Prat, near St Malo in France.

This exhibition is the culmination of a year's work under the Economic Union, Culture 2000 Project, on the Tidemills of Western Europe, managed by the Ecomuseu of Seixal in Portugal. Two English tidemills sent representatives to Portugal for the initial conference in early 2005, of which I was one.

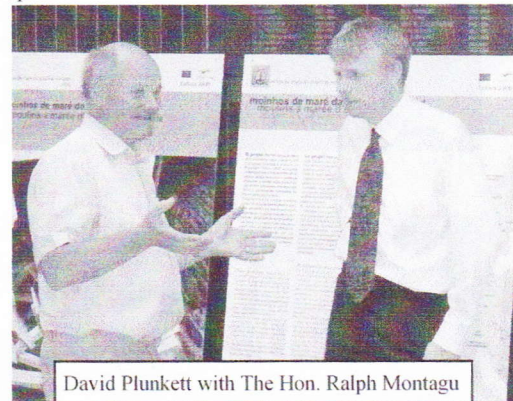
I became the UK co-ordinator for the English language history, technology, maps, photos and some editing, largely with Loic Menanteau and his wife at Nantes, France and Claudia Silvera at the Ecomuseu in Seixal. This led to the initial publications and a CD-Rom for multimedia educational use, then followed by the touring exhibition first venue, in November 2005, at Santander in Spain.

The first UK venue was planned for Eling Tide Mill but, due to insufficient space, the offer from Totton and Eling Town Council, of the Council Chamber was accepted, thanks to the help of the Town Clerk (Derek Biggs).

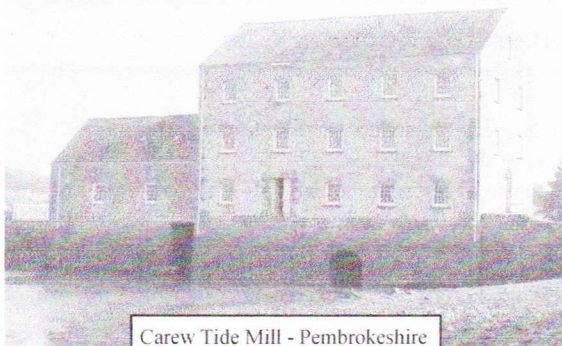
11th to 16th: September - The Hon. Ralph Montagu kindly agreed to officially open this first venue in the UK. Although numbers attending were not great we had some very supportive people from as far afield as Reading and Glastonbury. HMG helped in the form of volunteers to man the hall and provide additional display boards and literature; and of course, expertise to the enquiring visitors.

Essex County Council made an early response to my request for venues and Geoff Wood arranged for Thorrington Tide Mill to have the exhibition for a long weekend, manned by volunteers, led by John Hewitt of Brightlingsea. As many of you will know, Thorrington is a tidemill, restored to impound fresh water only. Although in working order, it is not used for milling at the current time though the volunteers would love to get it going. About 150 visitors saw the exhibition here which was much appreciated.

As I am chairman of the Mills Research Group, it was only right that the exhibition was staged at this venue. A small first floor hall, in a historic slate, constructed building. Not many local visitors but keen MRG members from around the UK.



David Plunkett with The Hon. Ralph Montagu



Carew Tide Mill - Pembrokeshire

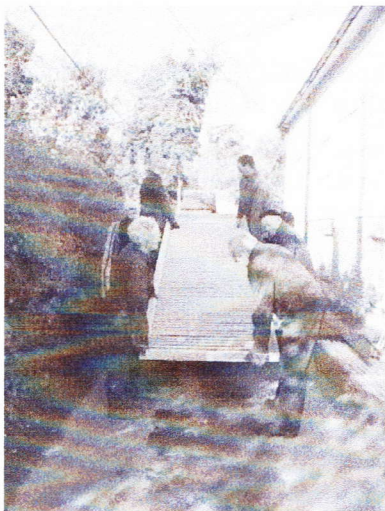
tidemill in the UK and possibly in the world. It is being displayed in the Mill House, ground floor, around the café area which is open weekdays 10.00 am to 2.30 pm. It will also be open on Sunday 10th December, 10.00am to 4.00 pm.

There is an extension of the Exhibition time in the UK, so I'm looking for new venues in northern England and perhaps Ireland and Scotland for 2007. Remember CD-Rom and the web address www.moinhosdemare-europa.org for European tidemill content and my address david@millbowl.co.uk when offering a venue.

If any HMG member requires copies of the published literature for the exhibition, please contact me directly.

David Plunkett

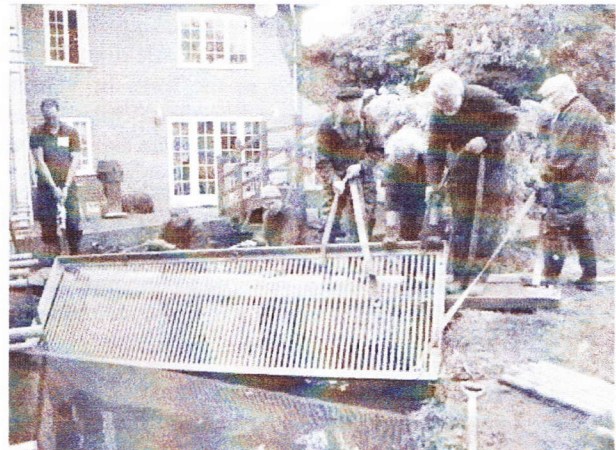
Your News & Letters



HMG members were working at Wherwell Mill today helping to install a new weed screen. The new screen was delivered by the contractor and we were needed to manoeuvre the heavy screen into place, but the work was completed by lunchtime. The mill and house are undergoing extensive renovation works to the fabric of the buildings, but not the machinery. The long term aim by the owners is to use the turbine to generate electricity again as all the original equipment is still in place, but it will require a lot of work and money to achieve this. As the first step towards this goal HMG hopes to be able to free up the turbine in due course, and the new weed screen will help us dam off the water channel to allow this work to take place.

The days' efforts were led by Mick Edgeworth ably assisted by John Silman, Ruth and Keith Andrews, Nigel and Angela Smith, Fred and Basil and not forgetting Tony the steelwork contractor from Horsham.

Nigel Smith



Message from the Membership Secretary

It is time again to think about paying another year's subscription. The price has not increased and remains:

Hampshire members	£8.00 - (£9 with another person at the same address)
Out of County members	£5.50 - (£6.50 with another person at the same address)
Corporate members	£15.00

You may also pay for several years in advance or by standing order. If you have paid by either of these methods in the past year, you should have received a "receipt for advanced payment" with the information from Alison about the Christmas meeting - if you didn't, please contact me.

Another point to note - as we now have charitable status, HMG will gain if subscriptions are **gift aided**; this costs nothing but your signature on a form. Please think about doing this (standing order and gift aided forms are available from Lyn or Eleanor). I will have some with me at the December meeting.

Membership: We have gained ten new members this year and would like to welcome: Martin Barnes (who has taken up his late father's membership), David Hibbert, Arthur and Prue King, Michael Southgate (on behalf of Eling Tide Mill Trust), Fred Spiers, Hugh Taylor and Astrid Smith, Di Threlfall, Kingsley Williams. Sadly we have lost Mary Yoward, John Barnes and John Pelling (an out of county member); we also say farewell to Cdr John Rayner who writes from France "...after 10 years of retirement, I am quite removed from HMG and feel that my time as a member must end. Keep up the good work and give my regards to all who remember me." We now have a total of 151 members.

Lyn Peet

HMG Library

Our thanks to Mrs. Jo Taylor for donating these books from the library of her late father Michael Lane.

- The Windmills of Surrey and Inner London by K. G. Farries and M. T. Mason 1966 Skilton
 Windmills in Sussex by Rev. Peter Hemming C. W. Daniel Co.
 The English Windmill by Rex Wailes 1954 Routledge & Kegan Paul
 The Windmills of Kent by Jenny West 1973 Skilton
 The Mills of the Isle of Wight by J. Kenneth Major 1970 Skilton
 British Windmills and Watermills by C. P. Skilton
 Windmills in Hertfordshire 1972 Stevenage Museum
 Windmills in Warwickshire (a contemporary survey) by Wilfred A. Seaby
 & Arthur C. Smith 1977 Warwickshire Museum
- Norfolk Windmills: Part 2, Drainage and Pumping Mills including those of Suffolk by Rex Wailes
 Excerpt Transactions of the Newcomen Soc. Vol. 30, 1955-56 & 1956-57
- Danish Windmills by Anders Jespersen
 Excerpt Transactions of the Newcomen Soc. Vol. 31, 1957-58 & 1958-59
- Essex Windmills by Rex Wailes
 Excerpt Transactions of the Newcomen Soc. Vol. 31, 1957-58 & 1958-59
- Notes on the Windmills of Oland, Sweden by Rex Wailes
 Excerpt Transactions of the Newcomen Soc. Vol. 38, 1965-66.
- Windmills in Kent by Rex Wailes & John Russell
 Excerpt Transactions of the Newcomen Soc. Vol. 29, 1953-54 & 1954-55
- The Windmills of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, Part 1.: Post Mills
 by P. H. J. Baker & Rex Wailes
 Excerpt Transactions of the Newcomen Soc. Vol. 33, 1960-61
- A Gazetteer of the Water, Wind and Tide Mills of Hampshire by C. M. Ellis
 Offprinted from the proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club Vol. 25, 1965
- The Dutch Windmill by Frederick Stokhuyzen 1962 Merlin Press
- Millnotes No. 1 Oct 1970 Standing windmills of region de Flandre Maritime, France 1969;
 Some remaining windmills of the U. S. A.; Haverhill mill
- Millnotes No. 2 May 1972 North American Watermills; Gunton Park Sawmill, Norfolk;
 Reversing Mine Waterwheels;
- Millnotes No. 3 Oct 1972 Recollections of some Somerset millers;
 Note on gearing nomenclature;
 Notes on milling at Millstone & roller Debden mills Wickham Market, Suffolk;
 West Wrating, Cambridgeshire smock mill; Aden windmills; French toll-milling.
- Millnotes No. 4 Apr 1973 Communal flour milling:: anti-mills, union mills,
 subscription & co-operative mills; Drainage of Yarmouth marshes, marshmen & a
 drainage windmill in 1782; experiences of milling & baking at Downs mill &
 bakery, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex;; The German millers' union; German merchant-
 millers' association.
- Millnotes No. 5 Aug 1973 History of moulin de Pierre de Busigny, France; Some subscription mills;
 Heath House mill, Wedmore, Somerset; Ransome & Sims & Head corn mill.
- Millnotes No. 6 1974 Rawridge mills, Devon; Reports of visitations of Greenwich hospital & estates;
 notes on mill nomenclature; Russian milling industry.
- Individual Mill Notelets.
 Upminster, Windmill Essex; Wrawby Post Mill, Lincolnshire; Shipley Mill,
 Sussex; Pakenham Windmill, Suffolk; Stansted Windmill, Essex; Argos windmill,
 Sussex; Pitstone Windmill, Buckinghamshire; Die Muhle Aurora in Jork-Borstel,
 Germany (in German)..

Mick Edgeworth

Your News & Letters

HMG visit to Itchenstoke Mill on Sunday 1st October 2006

Between 15 and 20 HMG members and friends gathered at Itchenstoke Mill on a blustery Sunday afternoon to visit the mill and see the water meadows by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Roger Harrison.

Mr Harrison invited all to explore the interior of the mill, now converted into comfortable living accommodation, before he gave us all a short description of the history of the building and surrounding estate, prompted with snippets from our archivist Tony Yoward. It appears that a mill was recorded at this site in the Domesday Book and the present structure dates from three periods from the 17th century onwards. Corn milling ceased shortly after the First World War when a turbine was



installed capable of generating sufficient electricity for the whole village. As originally commissioned, the equipment could output up to 10 kilowatts (110v DC), although latterly this was reduced to 7Kw by the time generation ceased in the early 1950s. It must have been a similar set up to that which still exists at Wherwell

Mill, but unfortunately the original Armfield turbine has been removed and there is little remaining of the older milling machinery.

The water courses and location of the turbine pit remain intact so there may be scope for the owners to consider installing a modern turbine for electricity generation and HMG is keen to give any advice on this subject.

We were then given a guided tour of the water meadows showing the work done to maintain the channels and sluice gates



which makes these rare examples of this type of farming practice. The main beneficiary of this is in supporting an enormous variety of plant and wildlife which makes the whole area and the river system an ecological hotspot in this part of Hampshire. The owner has worked to achieve this with many external agencies such as EA, DEFRA, and various wildlife trusts and noted academic experts. It is no accident that this area was chosen for the release of otters back into the Itchen valley, which has been a notable success. The streams abound with birdlife and are a haven for ornithologists and bird watchers.

On the conclusion of our walk we were treated to tea with a table groaning with homemade cakes and buns! Our sincere thanks to Roger and his family for such an interesting visit and their generous hospitality.

Nigel Smith