

Hampshire Mills Group Newsletter



No. 73 Summer 2006

Chairman

John Silman
16 Verona Road
Chandlers Ford
SO53.2BZ
☎ 02380 254117

Vice-Chairman

Mick Edgeworth
17 Cerne Close
North Baddesley
SO52.9GX
☎ 02380 732967

Secretary

Alison Stott
Bridge Cottage,
Exton, Southampton
SO32 3LT
☎ 01489 877293

Treasurer

Eleanor Yates
Danesacre
Worthy Road
Winchester
SO23 7AD
☎ 01962 852594

Project Manager

John Christmas
☎ mob. 07778 136727

Membership Secretary

Lyn Peet
Faithfulls
Crux Easton
Nr. Newbury
RG20 9QF
☎ 01635 253044

Archivist

Tony Yoward
4 Slipper Mill, Emsworth
PO10 8XD
☎ 01243 378452

Web Master

Ashok Vaidya
The Mill House
Oxford Road, Donnington
Newbury RG14 2JD
☎ 07785 348506

Email

avaidya@hampshitemills.org

Newsletter Editor

Ros Plunkett
20 Kevins Grove
Fleet, Hampshire
GU51 3LJ
☎ 01252 815037
Email ros@millbowl.co.uk

SPAB Mills Section

Secretary

Simon Hudson
☎ 020 7456 0909

Email

simon@spab.org.uk



Whitchurch Silk Mill

HMG Dates for your Diary

Friday 16th June 2006, 7:30pm - HMG Summer meeting - Whitchurch Silk Mill. Our thanks to Stephen Bryer and his team for once again allowing us to use their wonderful facilities

Saturday 19th August - Hampshire Water Festival to be held in Romsey

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th September 2006 - National Heritage Weekend. If you feel you could spare some time to help on this weekend, please let our Chairman know.

Saturday 16th September 2006, 12:00 noon - HMG Autumn Meeting at Kingsley Mill, Bordon. Ref 186 784 377. Our thanks to Diana Szumlicka for allowing HMG to visit her lovely mill.

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

© Hampshire Mills Group.

Colin Chester Sterne

22nd January 1925 - 21st February 2006

Yet again, it falls to me as Chairman to sum up the life of one of our members in a few paragraphs. Not an easy task, which does not get any easier by repetition.

Colin was one of our oldest members, both of HMG and HIAS, and he had much experience to pass on to both organisations. I am very grateful to Colin's wife Velma, for a little look into his busy life.

Colin was largely self taught and this is explained with a look into his huge library. He gave HIAS several boxes of books and this made only a very small dent in the numbers left at his home.

After he left school, he worked on the land until taking up an apprenticeship as a joiner. For some reason he did not complete this learning curve but it certainly instilled in him a love of both wood and the skills and tools to work on it.

He began a small part-time business making wooden items. This did not produce enough to live on so he began nursing training and that was when he met and married Velma in 1953. Their union produced three boys and two girls and now, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Later, Colin worked for CEGB at Calshot Power Station.

I first met Colin as a volunteer at Eling Tide Mill, often with son Phillip and daughter Rosemary. After Eling Tide Mill was palpably saved, Colin became very involved in "saving" Shieldhall and converting her from a cargo carrier to an excursion steamer. Colin had a very wide experience of life and was always ready to help and advise.

Although lately incommoded by ill-health and a permanent oxygen bottle, he still rang me quite frequently to question what we were doing on any particular job that the "Heavy Gang" was involved in.

We all looked to Colin for advice and assistance and we shall miss him very much.

John Silman

Editor's Comments

I start with an apology. As you read the Chairman's Diary, you will note that John refers to a report (within this edition) of a Tour in March / April by members of Hampshire Mills Group to Dorset & Somerset Mills which he hoped would be supplied by David Plunkett. Unfortunately, for various reasons, this has not been completed. Hopefully it will appear in the next edition.

I am, as ever, indebted to those people who take the time to send me articles and pictures for the Newsletter. As well as my "regulars" on whom I depend, it is always good to see new contributors and in this edition, in addition to the report by Nigel Smith, giving the "Heavy Gang's" eye view of the sad happenings at Beaulieu Tide Mill, I was very grateful to receive a report and pictures from Michael Carden giving the Beaulieu Settled Estate aspect as well. Thank you Michael. Perhaps we can look forward to an update at a later date. I was also pleased to receive an email from Ashok & Jane, who have shared with us their holiday "snaps". Some people spend their vacations in amazing places, don't they?!!

Holiday snaps and tales (of the molinological kind only please) will always be gratefully received.

We have reached the penultimate page in Ken Kirsopp's comprehensive index. I must admit that I have found it extremely interesting but I was also saddened to think that so many of these wonderful buildings no longer exist. Thank you Ken, may we look forward to updates as your research continues?

I will end with another apology. As some of you are aware, this last eighteen months has been a little difficult for me (health wise) and it has affected my ability to get enthusiastic and energetic about many things, Newsletters included. Now, with all the surgery and treatments hopefully behind me, I might actually be able to produce a Newsletter on time. That would make a nice change - wouldn't it?

Ros

Chairman's Diary

Monday 13th March - With Mick to Winchester's historical Resources Centre in Hyde Street to hear Leah Mathias speak on the National Lottery bid for resources to enable Hants & IOW Naturalists Trust to partially restore the Itchen navigation between Winchester and Southampton. Well, canals are my second favourite item of Industrial Archaeology

Thursday 16th March - Beaulieu Tide Mill badly damaged by fire (see later entries).

Saturday 18th March - To London to SPAB HQ for the twice yearly "COGs" meeting which gives the chance for Mills Groups to raise any relevant matters with the Mills Section of SPAB. It was an interesting meeting but rather poorly attended.

Sunday 19th March - Attended meeting of the Crux Easton Wind Engine Preservation Trust at Faithfulls.

Tuesday 21st March - At the kind invitation of John and Maureen Capps of the Norfolk Mills Group, I spoke to their members on the activities of Hampshire Mills Group. They very kindly invited me to stay the night at their delightful house and on the previous afternoon, I was able to watch as John cast items for an order from British Petroleum at the family owned foundry.

They were very busy I was glad to see. Their showroom is a fascinating place for anyone interested in the art of casting. John told me that at one time, there were thirty two foundries in East Anglia and now there are only two!!! No wonder they are working so hard. My grateful thanks to John and Maureen.

Friday 24th March - Eleanor called with all the paperwork in our bid to become registered as a charity. All seems to be going well.

Monday 27th March - At the invitation of James Webb (Conservation Officer, N. Dorset District Council) Tony and I went to look at Pipers Mill, Fontmell Magna. Very little of the machinery survives apart from a wooden upright shaft and a great spur wheel also made entirely of wood!! An item of considerable interest was the penstock constructed of beautifully cut stone slabs of great size and some three inches thick. The water supply was also a great mystery to us until Tony realised that the by-pass channel actually ran behind the water wheel, across the mill and emerged on the

opposite side of the mill from whence it entered. A very interesting visit.

Tuesday 28th March - To the National Trust property at Uppark to give a lecture in their "Lecture & Lunch" series. Gave them "The History of the Postcard" which was well received. Not only that but a delicious lunch and a generous donation came my way as well (for HMG).

Friday 31st March - Today is the long awaited three day tour of Dorset and Somerset Mills. We all gathered in Chandlers Ford and climbed aboard a bus hired from Eastleigh Voluntary Transport Service, driven by yours truly and navigated by Tony. I won't go into detail because I hope David will do that. It would seem that all members including Alan, who met us each day, thoroughly enjoyed their visits. I'll just say that we returned safely, 427 miles later, on Sunday evening to Winchester where Keith and Ruth lent us their drive and their bus washing equipment! May I thank them very much. Also thanks to Tony for navigating, Andy for sorting out the Hotel and doing the tour guide (times about 20), Tony again for contents of the guide, Eleanor for keeping the finances and everyone for not only coming along but also for being such good company.

Thursday 6th April - Rang Beaulieu Settled Estate having been sent photographs by our member Michael Carden who asked me to contact Andy Phillips regarding an initial investigation of damage at the mill. Arranged to meet Andy on 20th April to inspect.

Friday 7th to Sunday 9th April - Drove to Ipswich to meet members of "Levende Molens" of Flanders led by my very good friend, Frans Brouwers. Had a wonderful two days with them looking at Suffolk and Essex Mills on a tour led by Simon Hudson. Thank goodness they had a brilliant driver - how he extracted us from the narrow lanes and "jettied" buildings of Woodbridge, I just do not know. Forty six members of Levende Molens (it translates as Living Mills) came to England. Some were abroad for the very first time. All seemed to have enjoyed themselves and I hope they took back happy memories of East Anglia.

Chairman's Diary *continued...*

Wednesday 12th April - I was honoured to be invited to a lunch to celebrate the 75th Year of the SPAB (Mills Section) held at 37 Spital Square. Many familiar faces to see and quite a few to meet for the first time. Thank you Mills Section for a most enjoyable day.

Thursday 20th April - Afternoon appointment to meet Andy Phillips from Beaulieu Settled Estate at the fire damaged Beaulieu Tide Mill. For the first time since the fire, I was able to get into the mill to see the extent of the damage to the structure and the milling equipment. I was astonished to see how well the mill machinery had fared. Apart from one badly damaged sack hoist, most of the equipment was scorched rather than burnt whereas the roof was at least 60% very badly burnt. However, it is hoped that repairs to the roof will kick off a full scale return to working order.

Saturday 22nd April - I was delighted to arrange a visit to Whitchurch Silk Mill and Longbridge Flour Mill for Southampton Canal Society. We all met first at the Silk Mill where the Mill's Engineer, Derek, gave the SCS members a magnificent tour, giving many details not normally available to the public. Thank you Derek.

After coffee, we all went to Longbridge Mill where our members, Basil, Fred and Bill had the machinery on top line. Society members had lunch first and were then taken in two groups, led by Basil and myself, for a detailed tour of the whole of the equipment used in the Mill. I am very indebted to Maureen (Secretary to SCS) for much help with this tour so I was amazed, at the end of the tour, to be presented with a cheque for £50 for HMG by Paul Herbert (Chairman of the Society). Many thanks indeed to SCS and to Basil, Fred and Bill for their hard work.

Sunday 23rd April - To Timsbury to work on the restoration of the water wheel driven pump at Mayfly Cottage.

Monday 24th April - Received a call from Peter Story (Clerk to Bishopstoke Parish Council) to say that he has access to two possible grants towards the restoration of the turbines at Shears Mill. I am arranging to follow this up.

Wednesday 26th April - John Christmas, David Plunkett and Mick Edgeworth spent some time spraying the worst areas of woodworm in Hockley Mill. They report more woodworm appearing. They will produce a report and I will contact the owners.

Friday 28th April - The first work party to start clearing debris from the fire at Beaulieu Tide Mill. The group consisted of Nigel, Angela, Basil, Fred, Mick and myself. We filled one and a half skips with mainly the burnt remains of the roof. Two more visits are likely to be needed.

Friday 5th May - Work commenced today at Wherwell Mill consisting of a clean out and survey of the river, banks and the building itself. We lifted out the much damaged and (in places) broken weed screen and began cleaning out the turbine

Tuesday 9th May - As arranged with Carol Burdekin (Secretary of Hants Industrial Archaeology Group) Keith and Ruth Andrews, Carol and I were invited to have a look at the Eel House on the river Itchen just outside Arlesford. This most unusual structure straddles a carrier of the Itchen and has three tunnels underneath the building and an upper floor (for accommodation?). As this appears to be outside the Mills Section remit, I decided to take it up with the SPAB Main Section at our next Committee Meeting on 17th of this month.

Wednesday 10th May - Further work at Wherwell Mill.

Saturday 13th - Sunday 14th May - (National Mills Weekend) Andy and I spent the Sunday at Chase Mill. We saw some forty or fifty visitors and we ran the wheel for most of the day. Other mills also had a good weekend with plenty of visitors

Wednesday 17th May - Mills Section Committee Meeting at Spital Square.

Friday 19th May - A further day spent working at Beaulieu Tide Mill. We removed another complete skip load of material. There appears to be at least one more skip load of burnt roof parts to be removed before a full survey can be carried out.

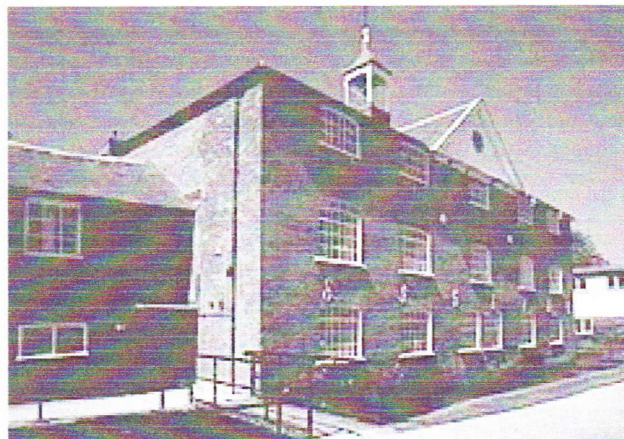
John Silman

Fact File

Whitchurch Silk Mill

South-east of Basingstoke and situated on Frog Island in the River Test the small market town of Whitchurch offers a wonderfully unique attraction. Whitchurch Silk Mill is the last working mill of its kind in the south of England, and used to produce silk for Burberry raincoats and legal gowns.

It now functions as a working museum, making silks for interiors and costume dramas including the BBC's production of *Pride and Prejudice*. Open throughout the year, visitors can watch the working waterwheel, hear the late 19th century looms weaving silk and view the costume exhibition. The riverside garden is particularly pleasant for coffee and cakes from the exquisite cafe.



The Mill's History

Whitchurch Silk Mill was constructed in about 1800. It was originally used as a fulling mill, part of the finishing process in cloth weaving. In 1816 the Mill was purchased by William Maddick, a silk manufacturer of Love Lane, Aldermanbury, London. By the 1830s the Mill was weaving silk.

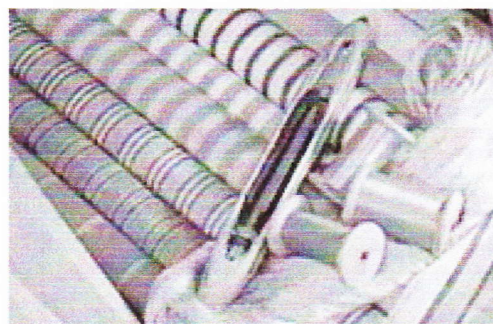
The Mill then passed in to the ownership of the Chappell family. During this period weaving at the Mill was done on large floor looms powered by the weaver. Winding was often done by children. By 1838 it had over 100 employees, 39 of which were children under 13 years old.

The Mill changed ownership again in 1889 when it was purchased by the Hide family. Based in Whitchurch, John Hide already ran a successful drapers business. It was his son James that was to run the Mill. The Hide family modernised production introducing powered looms, winding frames and a warping mill run by the waterwheel. A new larger waterwheel was installed to provide the necessary power.

The Mill wove linings for Burberry raincoats. Based in nearby Basingstoke, the Burberry's were related to the Hide family by marriage. Production at the Mill was interrupted by the Second World War as supplies of raw silk were not available. After the War individual electric motors were installed on the Mill's machines replacing water power.

James Hide continued to manage the Mill until his death in 1955 aged 92. The business was then bought by Stephen Walters and Company, Silk Weavers of Suffolk. In 1971 it passed into the ownership of Ede and Ravenscroft, makers of legal gowns. The ottoman silk for legal gowns was woven at the Mill and the gowns were made up in the sewing room.

In 1985 the Mill was faced with closure as the business was losing money. The building and its contents were purchased by the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust which carried out extensive repairs. This included renovating nearby cottages and selling them to fund the repairs. In 1990 the Mill was leased to the Whitchurch Silk Mill Trust, dedicated to educational and preservation purposes. Weaving continued and does to this day using the historic machinery for its original purpose, producing fine silks for our customers.



Whitchurch Silk Mill, 28 Winchester Street, Whitchurch, Hampshire, RG28 7AL, UK

Tel: ++44 (0)1256 892065 ~ Email: silkmill@btinternet.com ~ Registered Charity 900621

Your News & Letters

Hampshire Corn Windmills - continued

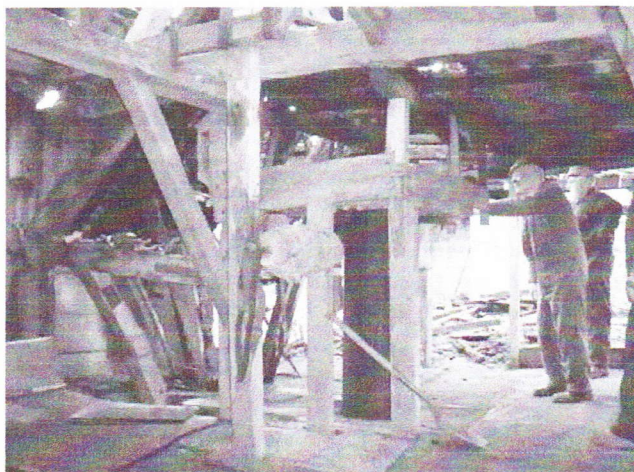
	Grid ref	Built	Working	Dem	Notes
Shalcombe Down	SZ389852		1611		
Shanklyn Down	SZ568801		1586-1611		
Silchester	SU6262		1317-1348		
Silchester	SU625625		1756-1791	1832	pulled down
Soberton, East Hoe	SU6016		1409-1433		
South Hayling	SU731005		1701-1721		
South Hayling	SU731005				
South Warnborough	SU722477				Great Windmill Field
Southampton, Bullwarks	SU423110		1434-1643	1643	Caplin's Mill
Southampton, Castle Mound	SU419114		1665-1726	1726	
Southampton, Chapel	SU428115		1699-1749		Gilbert's Mill
Southampton, Fulflood 1	SU419119		1245-1400		
Southampton, Fulflood 2	SU419115	1305	1305-1549		
Southampton, Houndwell	SU421121		1225		2 mills
Southampton, Mill Tower	SU421109		1454		
Southampton, Northam	SU431120		1804-1813	1814	pulled down
Southsea, Common	SZ641988	c1792	c1792-1845	1848	Ballard's Mill
Southsea, Dock Mill	SZ650989	1816	1817-1905	1923	converted to steam
Southsea, Lumps	SZ655983		1791-1853	c1880	
Southsea, Lumps postmill	SZ6598			####	fiction
Southwick	SU6107		1155-1220		
Southwick	SU625069			1693 1703	blown down
Sparsholt	SU421334				Windmill Hill
St Helens	SZ6288		1324		
St Mary Bourne	SU406520		1797-1845	1855	Stoke Mill
Steep	SU756252				Windmill Field
Stoke Charity	SU490390		1756-1791		
Sydmonton, Pound Down	SU485592		1806-1826		
Tadley, Coombe House	SU592592				Little Windmill, Great Windmill
Titchfield, Crofton	SU545042		1152-1186		
Titchfield, Parkgate	SU522069				
Titchfield, Rowner	SU5801		1238-1266		
Titchfield, Stubbington	SU569031	c1820	1825-1899	1931	Peel Common
Twyford	SU504244				Windmill Piece

Ken Kirsopp

Your News & Letters

Beaulieu Tide Mill

Following the disastrous fire at the mill in March, John Silman was in touch with the Beaulieu Estate Office to offer any help that HMG could provide. This offer was taken up and Friday 28th April saw a small group of members gather for work before 9.30am in the mill yard. Our task was to commence clearing the inside areas of the building which had suffered the worst fire damage and to begin putting together an initial damage



John & Mick inspecting the damage

survey. The purpose of this activity is to prepare the building for inspection and damage assessment by the professional agencies who will ultimately allow the owners to consider restoration options.

It was our first opportunity to get inside the mill and view the effects of the fire at close quarters, and it was a pleasant surprise to see that the damage was not as bad as first appeared. Although much of the recently restored roof above the milling floors has been lost or damaged beyond repair, the ground floor and all its machinery seems only to have suffered from some superficial water damage. On the first floor the picture was mixed with some damage to the gear wheels and sack hoists, but the floor is largely intact

although covered in debris. However, on the top floor half the grain bins have been totally destroyed along with a sack hoist.

The group made a start on clearing debris on the first floor, taking great care to make sure the boards were capable of taking the weight of a person before starting any vigorous activity. We managed to remove about one and a half skip loads of material, mostly charred wood and broken tiles. Any remains that looked worth saving for re-use or documentary purposes were carefully stored on the ground floor. As work progressed I tried to photographically record the remains for future reference.

At the end of a hard day's efforts we had made good progress in clearing the first floor, but more remained to be done at the end of the building nearest to where the fire started. I understand that the Fire Service definitely suspect that the blaze was caused by arson. Towards the end of our stay we were greeted by Ralph Montagu, who is the owner, and he thanked us all for our work and enthusiasm.



Where on earth do we start??

Further clearing sessions have seen the rest of the debris on the first floor removed, the top floor cleared (with the utmost caution on where to stand) and a start made on the ground floor. Contractors have erected scaffolding over the whole of the building covered with corrugated sheeting to keep out the weather and assist with the survey of the roof. John Reynolds has donated his drawings of the machinery to the HMG archive which will be very valuable when restoration commences. The next working party is scheduled for Friday 9th June which should have taken place by the time you read this, when we plan to continue clearing the ground floor.

report & pictures - Nigel Smith

Your News & Letters

Beaulieu Tide Mill

As members already know from the 'scoop' report in the last newsletter, the mill suffered very serious fire damage on the night of the 15th March. The police found evidence that the fire had been started deliberately, and this may be another case of local arson attacks on barns and similar buildings in recent months.

In order to describe the damage I must first describe the plan of the mill. The original buildings are T shaped, the top of the T running along the road and the leg projecting into the river with the tails from the original twin mill wheels on each side. Looking from the road, on the left hand side the Mill is attached to the Mill House, and on the right to the mill yard, which is entered by a gabled gatehouse.

While the damage is extensive it is by no means as bad as it might have been due to prompt and efficient action by the Fire Service. The roof is completely burnt out in the right hand section of the top of the T where the fire started at first floor level, and the destruction extends at roof level into the leg of the T and some way into the front range of the mill yard; in both cases the rafters still exist but for the most part too badly burnt to be re-used. The left hand of the top of the T has survived intact and, beyond it, the Mill House was unaffected except by smoke.

The attic floor inserted within the roof is also probably beyond repair in these areas and, regretfully the matchwood grain bins crammed into these spaces have also gone. But the bins in the left end of the T have survived undamaged, so we still have a perfect example of this irresponsible overloading of the mill structure by past millers, which accounts for much of the structural distortion and propping at lower levels.

At first floor level, damage is slight except around the seat of the fire, and the nearby upright drive shaft has only limited damage to the crown wheel. The only other moving part to have been badly damaged is the sack hoist, though its leather belt dropped to first floor and survived intact! The floor at this level is little damaged and the whole of the ground floor was unaffected by the fire.

There is no question that the mill building will be restored. The existence of measured drawings presented many years ago to Lord Montagu by a local architect, Tony Barbour, and subsequently checked and converted into computer drawings by David Pattison of the Radley House Partnership, mean that it will be possible to ensure that the structure can be faithfully reproduced.

The future of the mill, however, remains an intractable dilemma. The owner, Ralph Montagu, would dearly like to see it returned to working order, but the cost would probably be prohibitive, and insurmountable access problems mean that it could never be a satisfactory visitor attraction.

Slowly and steadily as funds have permitted, a programme of building repair has continued over the last few years so that, until the fire, the building was structurally safe and weather proof. The next stage, barely started, was the repair of the brickwork and temporary supports around the sluices and supporting the building and the machinery. This is now on hold until a full reassessment of the necessary fire repairs and the future of the mill has been carried out.

Meanwhile, Andy Phillips, the Clerk of Works for the Estate, is organising temporary roofing, a detailed damage report/repair schedule will be carried out shortly, and the Mills Group have been giving invaluable assistance by collecting, cataloguing and storing loose mill equipment elsewhere on site.

*Michael Carden MBE AAdip RIBA,
Consultant Architect to Beaulieu Estate and Mills Group member.*

Beaulieu Mill *continued...*



Top floor - west



Top floor - rear gable



Road elevation



Back view above sluice



Ground floor showing stored gear



Ground floor west - across stones

Photographs - Michael Carden

Your News & Letters

The Hampshire Water Partnership

A Hampshire Water Partnership Meeting was held at Southampton Civic Offices on Wednesday 7th June 2006 from 14.00 pm. HMG was represented by Dave Plunkett as Mick Edgeworth could not attend.

For those who do not know what this about; let me explain as briefly as possible.

Hampshire County Council with Government backing, have facilitated a Steering Group which appointed a full time Hampshire Water Co-ordinator by the name of Andrew Pitt. It advocates an integrated approach to water management. It consists of members from across the private, public and voluntary sectors all who have a role or interest in management of Hampshire's Water.

Aim: To ensure the long-term future of Hampshire's remarkable rivers, wetlands and aquifers for wildlife and people. It has a list of seven objectives;

1. To work in partnership to develop creative solutions to the range of pressures faced by Hampshire's water environment.
2. To represent and promote the interests of partners both to the public and to decision makers.
3. To affect cultural change in how organisations and individuals in Hampshire view the supply and disposal of water.
4. To provide a forum to promote the distinctiveness of Hampshire's water environment.
5. To disseminate information and advice on water issues to a diverse set of stakeholders across Hampshire.
6. To complement organisational statutory powers and current best practice.
7. To set and monitor measurable targets to implement the Partnership Action Plan.

It has a structured Action Plan, Annual Report, Meeting and Minutes.

Meeting Notes:

The Meeting was Chaired by Steven Lugg, as representing the Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils. After general introductions and briefing of Agenda listed, the Meeting really got underway with a keynote presentation from Steve Evans, Principal Scientist at Thames Water: on the waste issues in the Basingstoke and River Loddon catchment area. He commenced with examples of delayed Government planning and using the Thames Gateway, increase in housing and rising sea levels to make a case for joined up planning on water demand and sewerage services in the future.

There then came a list of 14 local sewage facilities, six sub-headings of consent discharges, a river area of SSSI quality, the Loddon Pondweed which is exceptional to the area, plus the various restraints imposed on water companies. Although the Basingstoke area is at the leading edge of treatment quality at the current time, it cannot be expected to be so for much longer as the demand for housing in the region escalates.

Already plans are prepared to deliver water from the River Thames to Basingstoke as a means to maintain sufficient water to meet demand. Sewage services are under strain and hard choices will be needed to maintain the environment in the manner we have practiced in the past. Apparently the Government are dragging their feet on various issues that need advanced planning and advice to water companies.

This was followed by a questions and answer period which raised further issues, including my point on surface water attenuation at private developments, both housing and industrial to control maximum discharge levels.

Then a presentation from Lucy Shea, from Futerra Sustainability Communications, on marketing and evaluation of the Water Festival held in Winchester last year and on this years Festival planned at Romsey, on Saturday 19th August. Make a note in your diaries to visit! I had to leave just after 4.00 pm so did not stay to hear about the Sub-groups or the Water Champions update.

I found the Meeting, thought provoking at times and certainly interesting enough to convey some notes to our HMG membership. I believe HMG should continue participation in this worthwhile Partnership.

David Plunkett.

Your News & Letters

Rice Milling in Korea



On our trip to South Korea last year we found this water wheel at the Folk Village near the capital Seoul. The buildings were all authentic and had been preserved and brought from the countryside to this park so visitors could get a glimpse of the old rural Korea.

Korea is an ancient country, with civilisation going back four thousand years with close links to China. It was predominantly through migration from Korea that led to the establishment of the Japanese culture.

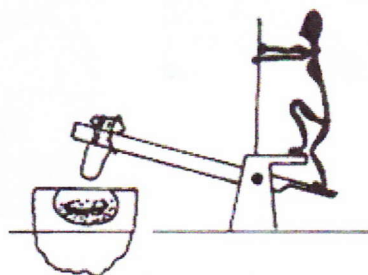


A two person manual stamper

The staple starch is rice and to hull and polish it a pounding action is needed, different from the rubbing provided by the flat mill stones that grind flour. The earthenware or stone mortar is grooved which acts with the grooved wood pestle to rub the husk off the rice grains.

A simple manual stamper would be a feature of many houses. The more complex water driven machine would have served the needs of a group of families.

Similar devices are still widely used in Japan too, for various purposes of household cooking; for example wet grinding or dispersion of "miso" (bean paste), "tofu" (bean curd) and yam.



Your News & Letters

Rice Milling in Korea continued

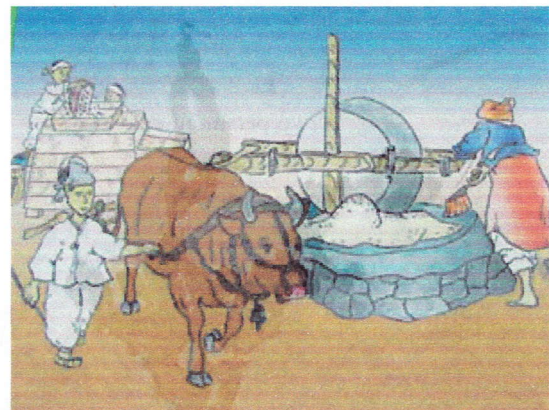


Here in Kyongju in the south of the country is a very large (~8m diameter) modern wheel and mill, built in 1997 as a tourist attraction at the Bomun Lake Resort.

The wheel is coupled to a simple cam which drives the arm of the pounder twice or four times per revolution.



A more efficient development was the replacement of the pestle with a roller in an edge runner mill, which could run continuously. These could be large and driven by oxen walking around in a circle.



Ashok & Jane Vaidya