

Hampshire Mills Group Newsletter



No. 66 Autumn 2004

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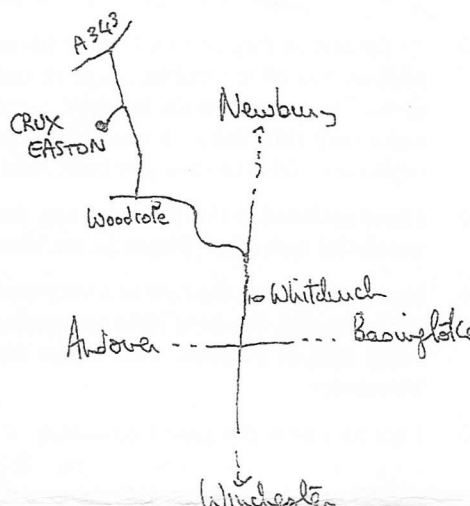
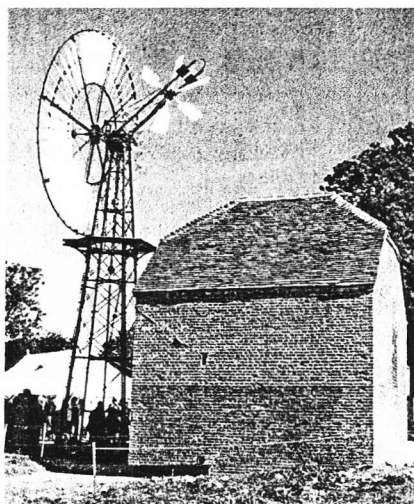
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Monday to Friday  
9.30 to 5.00  
Section bookshop open  
Thursday 10 till 4  
~~~~~

Crux Easton Wind Engine - Map ref: SU425 564

A34, past the Whitchurch turning and exit approx 4 miles on (Litchfield exit) turning left at top of slip road. Follow signs through Woodcote to Crux Easton (approx 5 miles). Final left turn "no through road". Crux Easton Wind Engine is on the left at the crossroads



HMG Dates for your Diary

Friday 24th September 2004 - 7:30pm

Autumn Meeting - Crux Easton Wind Engine
(map ref: SU 425 564) Come a bit earlier if you want to have a good look at the Wind Engine. Weather permitting, it will be working. For your own comfort, please bring a chair with you.

Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st October 2004

Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st November 2004
Milling demonstrations at Winchester City Mill

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th December
Tree Dressing at Winchester City Mill

Friday 17th December 2004

Christmas Party & Meeting - Neatham Mill at the kind invitation of Trevor & Janet Weston. The meeting will again take the form of an American Supper. Please bring along food and/or drink for all to share.

Fourth Saturday in every month

Milling at Longbridge Mill. Enjoy a day out. You could even have a drink or lunch in the restaurant

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

- ◇ Well here we are again. It seems like only a couple of weeks since I published the last Newsletter. Come to think of it, the last edition was so late that it probably is.
- ◇ Anyway, I'm still in a mess. The goldfish have been temporarily transferred to an existing, very small pond that we found in the garden, buried under a pile of rubble but still intact. The plants are still in assorted buckets & bags and the garages contain mountains of boxes instead of our cars. We've had builders in for the last month and our new furniture hasn't turned up yet (we are currently eating all our meals at the breakfast bar in the kitchen. My dining room is empty). Ah well - We'll get there, one day.
- ◇ I've given up indoor bowls (which is played from September to May) for the time being but, as an outdoor bowler, I play most days from May to September and I, with two friends, was fortunate enough to win the Hampshire County Triples championship, so I have also been representing Hampshire in the National Finals at Leamington Spa. We beat Northumberland but fell to Cambridgeshire. Never mind - perhaps next year.
- ◇ At the end of July, we took some friends, who were staying with us, out for a meal. We went to Longbridge Mill on one of it's milling days (I can thoroughly recommend it for a meal). Seated in the restaurant and dressed from head to toe in white, were two people that I felt I should know. Of course..... Margaret Silman and a **very thin John**. It was great to see him on the road to recovery but he has clearly been through a bit of a nightmare. Glad to have you back John - keep taking the medicine!!
- ◇ I have included in this edition a new feature: 'Mills Online'. Shall I keep it as a regular item? There are some wonderful web sites. Please let me know what you think.
- ◇ I am now looking forward to a very new experience, my very first TIMS (for the uninitiated - The International Molinological Society) 2004 symposium. My enthusiasm might have something to do with the fact that it's being held in Portugal with forays into Galicia in Spain, twelve days in all. I'll report back in the next Newsletter.
- ◇ I am also now the proud custodian of a black & white photocopier which prints double sided, collates and staples, up to twenty sets at a time. It arrived last week and I shall be trying it out for the very first time with this Newsletter. So for reasons of speed and economy (and to preserve the limited funds of the HMG) this edition is minus colour. I hope you don't mind. The purchase and re-filling of countless colour cartridges for my printer is a very costly business and I know the funds could be put to much better use as there are all sorts of pieces of equipment that the Group would like to be able to purchase to aid them in their continuing work of preserving, restoring and promoting the mills of Hampshire.

◇ **Finally, I would like to say a big, very belated 'Welcome' to three new members who were not mentioned in the last edition**

Anthony & Sarah de Sigley and Tina Taplin

My apologies

In addition, 'Welcome' to a more recent new member - Donald LeClair.

Chairman's Diary

I apologise in advance for a rather 'thin' diary in this edition of the newsletter but this has been mainly due to my being a bit unwell over some six to eight weeks starting in June.

I was unable to eat very much for just over a month and in fact, managed to lose some thirty pounds weight in thirty one days. You may well say that I needed to get some weight off but I don't recommend a virus as a method of losing poundage!!

I was given an appointment with Dr James, the chief haematologist at Winchester and was 'robbed' of many phials of blood for testing which showed that I had not been suffering from Hepatitis A, B or C, nor was it Weils disease! So, in the end it was given as a virus attack, of unknown origin, on my liver.

All this, I offer as a weak and feeble excuse for a not very long diary entry.

To get back to proper mill matters:-

Tuesday 1st June: I went a little outside our area to talk to East Preston British Legion, Women's section (it's near Worthing) to talk about the History of Milling.

Chairman's Diary continued

Friday 4th June: Basil Hunt and I went to Longbridge Mill to remove a 'tree' which was leaning against the mill roof having been blown off its' roots in a gale. When we had removed the heavy covering of ivy, we discovered that it was not a tree but a 6" x 6" x 14' oak baulk that had carried a depth indicator for the nearby well!! To cut a long story short, Basil and I got it safely down, cut in half for easier handling and stowed by the mill. The Mill Manager, Adam, was so pleased that he invited us to have lunch in the restaurant. What he didn't tell us (we found out later) was that the pub's contractors had quoted him four man days work and £600 to do the job that two senior citizens did in two hours!!

Saturday 5th June: Mick, Basil & Brian ran Longbridge Mill while the judges of "Britain in Bloom" were inspecting the village. They must have been impressed as I understand that Sherfield-on-Loddon won their district competition.

Monday 7th June: I spoke to the Rotary Club of the Itchen Valley on the History of Milling.

Thursday 10th June: I spoke to Chandlers Ford Widows on Postcard History. It all helps to swell the Hampshire Mills Group coffers!!

Monday 14th June: I went to Hockley Mill to run the wheel and clear an accumulation of weed and then went on to the Fareham office of the National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance with reference to Mill insurance. This is a very worrying consequence of the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York. Insurance premiums are soaring up even though there have been hardly any claims made in Britain. SPAB are also very worried about this and are actively investigating what can be done.

Thursday 24th June: Saw me talking to Alistair Penfold of Hampshire Museum Services to see if we can beg some space for storage of artefacts to be used in future restoration work. He says we can have some space at Chilcomb. Thanks Alistair.

By the 17th June, I had begun to feel rather unwell and my diary entries are very thin for the rest of June and all of July.

Sunday 18th July: Tony Yoward very kindly stood in for me when Somerset Industrial Archaeological Group visited Hampshire. He took them to Bursledon Windmill and Hockley Watermill as well as other sites. Many thanks Tony! I understand that they much enjoyed their visit to Hampshire

Tony and Mary again stood in for me when Sussex Mills Group visited Hampshire for a look at some of our mills. I felt that I must make an effort so Margaret and I went to Whitchurch to meet them at the Silk Mill during their stay. It was on this day that I began to feel a little better. Thanks again Tony and Mary!

I must also say thanks to our Vice Chairman, Mick, for helping out during my enforced absence. Thanks Mick.

Wednesday 18th August: I hurriedly went to Keith and Ruth's house in Winchester for a committee meeting after a reminder from the rest of the committee who were waiting patiently. Thanks for the reminder Ruth!!

Friday 27th August: A number of us went to Chesapeake Mill at Wickham to see what needed doing to the remaining machinery in the mill. As most of you will know, the mill has been leased to Anthony Taylor's company for the storage and sale of antique furniture. There appears to be quite a bit to do and the most worrying thing is that the turbine is jammed and may have to come apart to be freed off. Our first work party at the mill will be on Sunday 3rd October. If you can get there, please come along and help!!! We start at 10:30am

That's all for now folks. Sorry it's so short this time. I'll try to do better next Newsletter.

Hampshire Mills in Brief

Winchester City Mill: Trading standards have OK'd their flour samples and scales so there will be milling every month.

Crux Easton Wind Engine: Had the automatic greasers fitted to the fantail. They also had a very busy open day in June.

Eling Tide Mill: Lots of work to be done. Sluice gates and sea hatches are being almost totally renewed as they are not very effective.

Longbridge Mill: The leather on the shoe is worn. The bell arm was not hitting the damsel and has been lengthened by Basil Hunt.

Saddlers Mill: Work is well underway. The house is being underpinned. The ground and first floor equipment is all gone but the grain bins have been found.

Whitchurch Silk Mill: Vandals have damaged the footbridge to the mill and wrecked the garden

Message from the Committee

Chesapeake Mill

The Committee would like as many members as possible to join a working party at this mill on Sunday 3rd October from 10.30am to begin photographing, recording, cleaning and clearing all that needs repairing, restoring and preserving. Bring gloves, brushes, cloths etc., plus your lunch if you don't want to go to the pub!!

Your News & Letters

The Miller - August 6th 1934

So Now We Know

A correspondent to a daily paper has discovered that a man's scourge today is stomach trouble, and this has come about because millers have scrapped millstones for steel rollers.

When the millstones were grinding wheat, they were also grinding themselves, and minute particles of grit got mixed with the flour, and eventually found their way into the human stomach where they acted as aids to digestion.

Shirley Kirsopp

A Letter to our Chairman

Dear Mr Silman

I had a brainwave recently to send you a photocopy of a photograph taken four years ago on the Greek island of Astypalea. Yours truly, happy as a sand boy, taken with that FANTASTIC backdrop of WINDMILLS!!

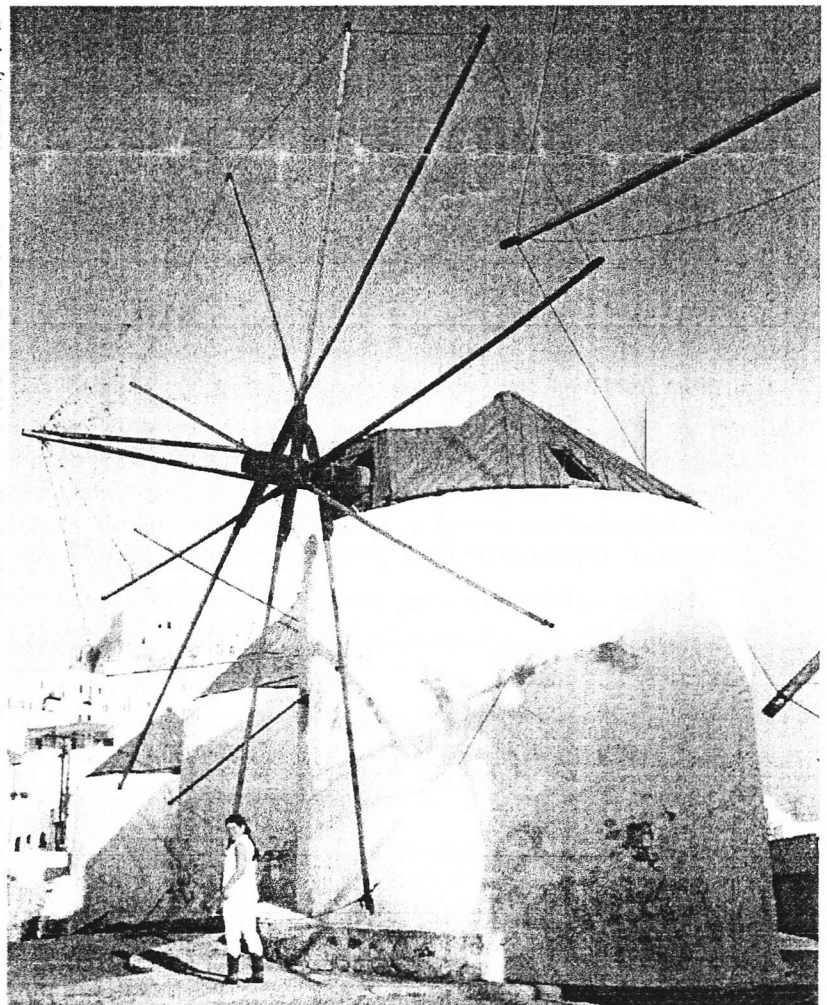
There are many windmills, wind pumps, water mills in Greece. I am not an expert but whenever I travelled around the country, I used to photograph them. In due course, I can get my hands on some postcards I possess of Lasithi Plateau in Central Crete island which is the most staggering scene I have ever seen in my life for those of us batty about mills! Lasithi is unique in that hundreds, if not thousands, of wind pumps are installed all in one area! They are quickly being replaced by push-button pumps, electrical replacements for what were originally wind powered machines. It is a mind boggling moment when you first see Lasithi Plateau and worth the airfare to go and see for yourself.

I go back to my husband's island of Corfu in August and can dig out my old photos and postcards and send you copies in September if you like.

For now, goodbye and apologies for not being more active as a member but family pressures to great at present.

Yours sincerely

Mariana Perry-Zoupánou



Your News & Letters

Mill Visits to Hampshire

In July this year, we had the pleasure of welcoming visits from two other counties, Somerset and Sussex, and on both days the weather was excellent.

Sixteen members of the Somerset IA Group arrived in a Dormobile and I met them at Hockley viaduct. John Silman had done all the arranging and was due to take them round but he was very poorly (*feeling very much better now!*) and he asked me to take over.

To start we visited Bursledon Brick works, which happened to be a steam day, and who should we meet at the entrance but member Jim Knights (totally unarranged!) who volunteered to act as guide for the group. An excellent tour round with many questions expertly dealt with by Jim. Thank you.

The next visit was Bursledon windmill which was in sail and turning and Gavin in his inimitable style demonstrated the setting of the canvas and the workings of the mill, also presenting slices of bread made from the mill flour, which was much appreciated.

Hockley was the next call and the wheel was set into a gentle motion to illustrate the unique set up of the wooden machinery and the 'horizontal upright shaft' which had worked the threshing machine in the adjoining barn, now converted to a residence.

Unfortunately it had not been possible to visit Chase Mill, so with time to spare before they returned to Somerset, we headed for Crux Easton. This entailed quite a detour, due to the almost static queues on the main road caused by the road repairs at Whitchurch, so we went up the Test valley past Longparish and the watercress beds. Hampshire was looking its best that day!

At Crux Easton we were welcomed by Carol and Lyn, who had the wind engine turning and were able to show the visitors how it was put in and out of 'sail'. The automatic lubrication system intrigued several of our visitors – some had thought they may be aircraft warning lights! Inside, lights were shone down the 340 foot well, but we failed to get a volunteer to pop down to recover the pump. Great interest was also shown in the de Havilland display.

And then they departed back to Somerset. Thanks to John for organizing the day, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

* * * * *

Three days later, we had a visit from the Sussex Mills Group, organised by Peter Hill for his 36 members who travelled round by car. Mary and I accompanied them and were able to point out most of the salient features at each visit.

The first call was Durford Abbey Farm Wheel, actually just into their own county. Durford Abbey was founded as an Abbey of Premonstratensian canons before 1161 but was dissolved by Henry VIII, and what was left of it was removed in 1784 and the present farmhouse built. The site is an Ancient Monument, most of the buildings being Grade II, but the railings in front of the house are grade one which intrigued them. After fighting the nettles which were growing shoulder height, (*how useful walking sticks can be!*) they were able to see the cast iron remains of the wheel and follow the below ground shafting up to the barn and the lay shaft in the roof.

Then along to Longparish Upper Mill, where the new owners, although unable to be present, had left the wheel running and the mill open. Everyone spent a long time in the mill looking at the machinery restored by Rupert Dawnay and noting the plaque on the wall of the mill, awarded by the SPAB Mills Section for his work on the mill during the past decade, and admiring the mill's beautiful setting.

Whitchurch Silk Mill was the next call, and the lunch stop, where they had a guided tour and a chance for the ladies to purchase items from the shop.

Then Crux Easton where again, Carol and Lyn welcomed our visitors and had the wind engine running. We again failed to find a volunteer to go down the well although one gentleman said he would certainly have descended 20 years previously (*again we were a little late*).

Longbridge Mill at Sherfield on Loddon was the next visit, where our members Basil Hunt and Mick Edgeworth had come to run the mill specially for them. Each of the visitors was able to depart with a bag of freshly ground flour. Peter Hill thanked them both for their effort and we rounded the day off having an evening meal with a number of our visitors.

Tony Yoward

Your News & Letters

Herewith, a "gem" from the Portsmouth Evening News ref. "Chesapeake"

John Silman

John continues..... "the report is vaguely near the truth. I'm going to meet Tony Taylor of Taylor Haines (the new lessees of the mill) shortly, with John Christmas to see what we can do for the machinery left in the mill. I'll then send you a sensible list of the work we will do in order to conserve the turbine and other of Armfields equipment still left in the mill

THE NEWS, Thursday, July 1, 2004

HERITAGE: Firm begins £100,000 renovation scheme at building made from

New era begins at historic mill

by Lee Gibbs
The News

THE FIRM which won the fight to run a furniture and antiques business from an historic watermill has started the £100,000 renovation.

Import and export company Taylor Haines beat off a last-ditch bid from historians to take over the 125-year lease of Chesapeake Mill in Mill Lane, Wickham, from Hampshire County Council.

The company plans to remove internal walls, create doorways and replace some windows to store furniture and antiques on the 9,000sq ft floor space.

Construction workers have now moved in to clear machinery and equipment from the Grade II listed building and roof repairs are set to begin in the next few weeks.

Ageing beams bear the scars of cannon fire



Glen Haines, of Taylkr Haines, and Susan O'Malley at the mill

PICTURE: MATT SCOTT-JOYNT (043289-144)

THE USS Chesapeake was one of America's first frigates, built in Gosport, Virginia, in the late 1700s.

She was captured after a trade war between the Americans and the British in 1813 and brought back to Portsmouth, where she was later decommissioned.

In 1820 miller John Prior needed to do up his mill in Wickham and bought wood from the Chesapeake as it was being broken down in a shipyard.

The beams in the mill still bear the signs of cracks and splinter damage caused by cannon fire during fierce fighting.

Taylor Haines director Anthony Taylor was delighted to finally start the refurbishment after eight months of negotiations with county chiefs - and is hopeful building work will be completed in four months.

Historians and the Hampshire Mills Group were appalled that Taylor Haines, currently based at Southwick, was given control of the mill after launching a desperate bid to run a muse-

um from the site. But county council leader Ken Thornber said Hampshire already had 22 museums - 'a lot for any county council' - and added that a museum would have been expensive to set up and maintain.

Part of the mill will still be offered as a museum to give the public the chance to experience the building. And he is hopeful the county council will find a charitable or community organisation to run a

museum from the mill before building work is completed.

Susan O'Malley, who will handle the day-to-day running of Chesapeake Mill, added: 'It will be nice to get in there. It has certainly been a long time coming.'

County chiefs are confident a museum will be in place in 'the near future' after setting up meetings with interested parties, including Wickham Parish Council.

lee.gibbs@thenews.co.uk

Your News & Letters

John Stallard 1929 - 2003

Members who were at the meeting at Eling will have seen the five albums of coloured photographs of watermills in Hampshire, Dorset and Devon, taken in recent years, which John left to the Hampshire Mills Group. He had been a member of HMG for a time.

He came originally from Palmers Green in North London and died on 15th January 2003 aged 73, after a mercifully brief illness.

Although John started his career in the field of insurance, he was not mundane as may be supposed, but filled with adventure. It led him in mid-life round Dorset, where he became acquainted with and fascinated by the old water-wheel mills and their history. He settled there, also being able to devote himself to his love, sailing. He could be described as unique, flamboyant and very warm hearted.

This description was provided by his friend and neighbour, co-water wheel mill enthusiast and crew, Mrs Betty of Christchurch.

These albums may be seen at Slipper Mill, where Tony has them for safe keeping.

Tony Yoward

Southampton Corporation Leases

20th October 1645 - 40 years @ 5/- per year to William Yeomans of Southampton, Miller. All that waste plot lying on the south side of Arundel Tower near the high water mark, in length, 6 perches from north to south and in breadth 20 feet, with liberty to build a watermill between the tidemarks and to take in a millpond near Arundel Tower

As recorded and passed to me by Derek Moore, a late HMG member - Dave Plunkett

I cannot confirm this mill was ever constructed at this point in time, but some building work was commenced. So, is this Southampton Tide Mill N° 3 ??? DJP

News from Other Regions

Smocks Away!

Kent's historic windmills are standing proud across the countryside after a £1 million refit backed by cash from the Heritage Lottery fund.

Kent County Council owns a unique collection of eight mills and has just completed a major repair programme at seven of them including Union Mill at Cranbrook.

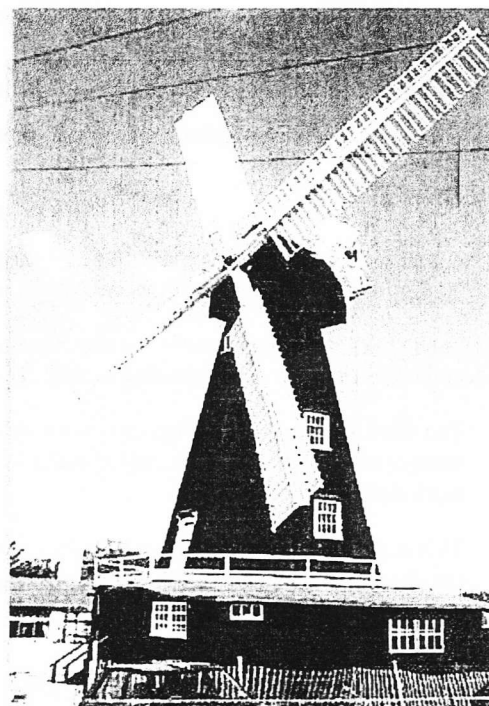
Union Mill, the tallest smock mill in England, was built in 1814 because there was a national shortage of flour during the Napoleonic War.

The landmark mill's sails have been replaced with authentic Kentish design sweeps and stocks to make the mill look as it did in 1850. It is one of the only fully operational mills open to the public in the South East. Last summer saw millwrights use a massive crane to lift the cap off the top of the 70ft high mill so that repairs could be carried out.

Work gets underway this summer to rebuild and strengthen Chillenden Mill near Sandwich, blown down and badly damaged in gales last November. The council has decided to restore the mill on its original site.

Repair work has also been carried out at Drapers Mill at Margate, Herne near Herne bay, Meopham near Gravesend, Davison's Mill at Stelling Minnis and Wittersham near Tenterden.

Leaflets giving mill opening times are available from libraries and tourist information centres or from KCC Principal Conservation Officer, Peter Cobley on 01622 221547 or Kent Windmill Association's Ray Harlow on 07966 177587.



Drapers Mill at Margate

Article submitted by Patricia Parr

Mills - Online

A labour of love - Josanne Cassar

As you are driving towards the village of Zurrieq from Safi, you will soon come across what is known as the Xarolla Windmill, the only functioning windmill left in Malta.

George Sammut has, so to speak, 'inherited' the job of taking care of this windmill. "The last miller was my great-uncle and my grandfather was a miller as well, so it has stayed in the family."

Mr Sammut is an expert on the windmill and has even written a book about it so that the technical terms of this trade won't be lost. Built in 1724 by Grandmaster de Vilhena, the Xarolla windmill was the last one in Malta to continue to function until it didn't become practical to use any more.

In 1939, steam machines were introduced, which meant that wheat could still be milled even without any wind.

Unfortunately, the windmill was badly hit by a gale in 1979 and was left to deteriorate. Then in October 1996, after years of neglect, it was restored by the Department of Public Works and in the year 2000 it was turned over to the Zurrieq Local Council.

"When I was young it wasn't open to public and my father had often expressed the wish for it to be restored," recalls Mr Sammut. The name came about in the usual manner of us Maltese who like to shorten names as much as possible. The area used to be known as Xaghra l-gholja, which then became Xaghra gholja, and eventually Xarolla for short.

"I learned about it through the family, by asking questions and learning all about it. I actually mill wheat so that it continues to work properly. The process of milling the wheat involves breaking it down to four products: coarse bran, fine bran, semolina and flour. I don't separate it, but it is still used. I do this job part-time and every weekend I turn the propeller so that no damage is done to it."

George believes that today there is more appreciation for such old-fashioned trades.

"About a thousand students a year come to visit, apart from those who come to do projects for their Systems of Knowledge. Schoolchildren, cultural groups and tourists all come to see it and I take them round myself. Financially, there is a cost to keep it running but I get help from the council. Now it is crucial that we don't abandon it and we have to keep it well-maintained."

Everything in the Xarolla windmill is made from wood, and once a year George Sammut covers it with linseed oil which he does free of charge. This is definitely a labour of love.

"Love for our national heritage is what makes me continue. I often go to Xaghra to help them out with their windmill as I wish to see it restored as well."

As for who will take over when George retires, thankfully his 17-year-old nephew is learning the trade.

"However, I would be pleased to teach whoever is interested so we don't lose this heritage."

The Worst Jobs in the World - Mill Scavenger

A Manchester textile mill wants to buy children as young as six years old to work as scavengers. Representatives from the mill will be visiting workhouses in the area very soon to hunt out likely candidates.

Each child is required, under the direction of the older spinners and piecers, to brush and sweep the cotton that falls under the wheels of the weaving mules, for at least 12 hours a day.

The work is extremely dangerous: many children have already been maimed, some even killed, by the machinery. A meagre amount of food is supplied and a bed that must be shared. The children are frequently beaten to keep them at work during the long day.

This is a truly grim form of exploitation of the very young and vulnerable. Their undoubtedly miserable lives will be cut short by the effects of the terrible working conditions to which they are subjected.

Mill Calendars

3 mill calendars at ok prices and 20% off at present for early orders.

<http://www.calendars.com>

Web sites - courtesy of William Hill (House Mill, London)

The Library

ROY GREGORY is well qualified for this task, having been a serious student of the history and conservation of windmills since 1974, when he took responsibility for the corn windmill at Skidby, in East Yorkshire. His wider research led to his first, very successful book, *East Yorkshire Windmills*, in 1985, after which his research widened still further into 'other' uses of wind power across the whole of Britain; and indeed, many parts of Europe, both East and West. He served a three-year period as chairman of the Mills Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and is a regular speaker at its meetings. He has also presented papers to the International Molinological Society.

Scheduled for publication in spring 2005, *The Industrial Windmill in Britain* will be a handsome, casebound volume of 160pp with over 60 b/w illustrations. It will have a recommended retail price of not less than £19.99. However, this leaflet provides the opportunity for subscribers to order copies at the special pre-publication price of £15.00 post free. Complete the coupon below and send to the publisher with your remittance, or order online at www.phillimore.co.uk.

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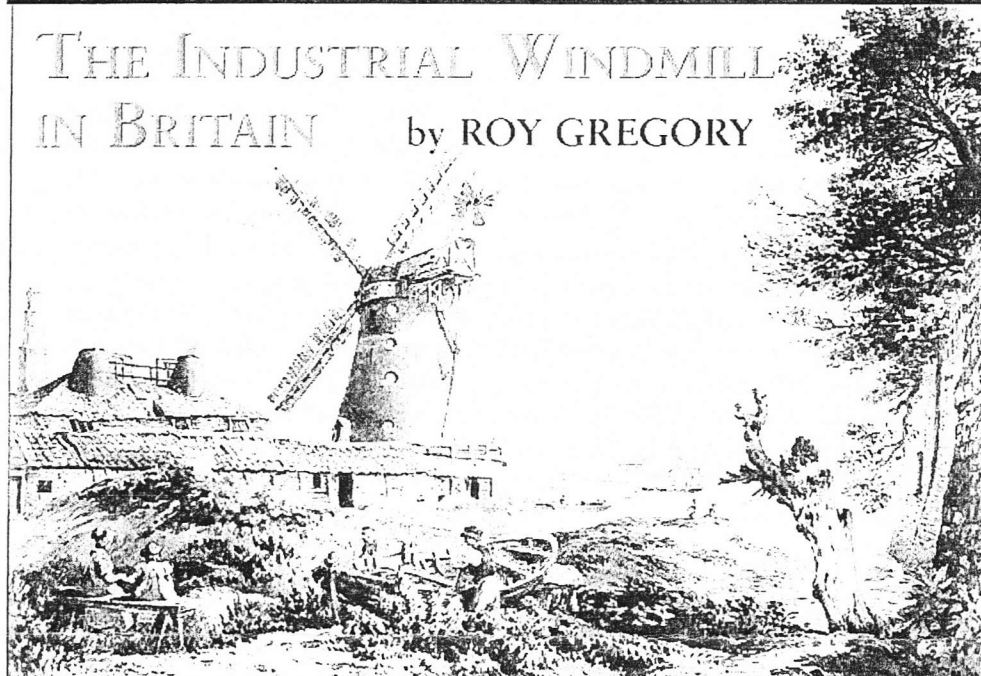
CLOSING DATE FOR SPECIAL OFFER: 30 SEPTEMBER 2004

The Library

No additions to the library in this edition but instead, information about a new publication.

Please note the closing date for the 'special offer' on page 9

NEW BOOK • SPECIAL OFFER • NEW BOOK • SPECIAL OFFER



WINDMILLS have been around in Britain for some eight hundred years, grinding wheat into flour and, in some places, pumping water off low-lying land. These aspects of their story have been ably covered by an extensive literature. Passing mention has been made of other uses of wind power, such as crushing oil seed, sawing timber and grinding snuff, but no detailed consideration has ever been given to these alternative applications of the windmill.

This new, thoroughly researched book fills that gap. The author has identified more than twenty 'industrial' uses, from the extraction and processing of raw materials and the manufacture of commodities to land-based facilities for their transport, in a total of 263 windmills. There were more, to which references have been found, particularly in relation to mines and salterns, but specific examples are lacking. In the early 18th century most corn mills were post mills, little changed from the 12th century. By the start of the 19th century, however, the windmill was very different, with tall brick towers, iron gearing and self-regulating devices, and the author shows how the evolution of these improvements resulted from the diverse use of wind power by the industrialists of the day.

This comprehensive account of the ways in which merchants and manufacturers exploited the power of the wind will be welcomed by molinologists and industrial archaeologists worldwide, and at a time when the British government is encouraging increased use of wind power this examination of what was achieved in the past should prove to be of interest outside the windmill fraternity.

NEW BOOK • SPECIAL OFFER • NEW BOOK • SPECIAL OFFER