

Hampshire Mills Group Newsletter



No. 65 Summer 2004

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National Mills Weekend at Eling Tide Mill

Counsellor John Hutchinson, Chairman of NFDC with David Plunkett on the stones floor with the demonstration runner stone and stone dressing tools alongside the main shaft and crown wheel.

This day coincided with the re-opening of the mill, amid considerable publicity, following a six month enforced closure.

Major and minor repairs are still in hand and, although the mill is once again producing flour, the quantity is limited to the time of tidal impoundment and it will be some considerable time before the mill is fully restored and back to full working order.

HMG Dates for your Diary

Saturday 24th July 2004

Winchester City Mill 450th Anniversary events - see page 4

Friday 24th September 2004

Autumn Meeting - venue to be advised

Fourth Saturday in every month

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

Forthcoming Events - details still to be finalised

Mid August 2004 - Water Fair - Winchester

September 2004 - History Fair - Eastleigh

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

The first thing that I must do here is to apologise for the lateness and limited content of this Newsletter. Not wishing to grovel too much, I still think it may be useful to explain a few incidents that have conspired to contribute towards the delay.

Firstly, as you may have noticed from my address on the front cover, David and I moved house on 1st May. This mammoth event was preceded by several weeks of frantic sorting and packing. We had the contents of two and a half homes shoe-horned into my little bungalow and the garages and garden sheds of various friends and relatives, which was the reason for the need to move to a larger home in the first place.

We are still surrounded by boxes. Even my baby goldfish (some one hundred in total) have not yet been 'unpacked'. They are currently residing in my grand-daughters' paddling pool on the patio (along with a local frog who has taken a liking to the hospitality on offer) until we can get the new fish pond dug. My multitude of plants are flowering in black bin liners and assorted carrier bags on the decking.

You will also see from David's Eling Tide Mill Diary of events (pages 5&6) that he spent more waking hours at Eling Tide Mill than he did at home during this chaotic time (bearing in mind that he also has a day time job).

Secondly, I am a Hampshire bowler. The outdoor bowling season starts the first week in May, and I am deeply involved in County and National competitions which begin the second week in May.

Thirdly, I am struggling with an ongoing RSI type injury to my right wrist, which is seriously restricting the amount of typing (and bowling) that I can do without severe discomfort. Unfortunately, it looks as though more surgery will be required before this little inconvenience gets sorted.

Anyway, enough of my excuses. I will try to put things right in time for the next issue.

Our Chairman too has had a few problems keeping up the momentum in the production of his diary. He is such a busy man that it is hardly surprising that the pace has dropped a bit but, in his own words: "..... I'll try to do better for the next Newsletter and get back to writing up during the quarter. I hope this is OK but I've been so busy on other things as well." What can I say but thank you John. I think you're doing a fantastic job!

Finally, I would like to say a big "Welcome" to three new members:

Joshua Bartel and Derrick & Colette Battye

Message from Lyn - Membership Secretary

If there is a large red X on the front of your newsletter I am still waiting to receive your subscription. Reminders were sent out in mid-April and there was a big red notice in the Spring issue. If you want to receive future newsletters, pay up before you are struck off the list."

Chairman's Diary

Firstly, huge apologies for not keeping up the flow of information about my doings so, herewith, some disjointed jottings from the last 2/3 months:-

City Mill, Winchester recommenced milling after a break of some ninety years.. Mick represented H.M.G. at the opening and I was able to go to another milling later in the week.

The staff and volunteers have worked very hard to achieve the return to milling and I congratulate all of them on a job well done! They are milling 'Malacca', a variety I've not come across before. Haven't made any bread with it yet, but it makes lovely rhubarb crumble!

Ruth made up some super display boards for the mill, looking at milling from the medieval period to the Tudors, as it is exactly five hundred years since Mary Tudor gave the mill to the citizens of Winchester on the occasion of her marriage to King Philip of Spain in Winchester Cathedral. Thanks Ruth!!

The third week in March, I went with Mick and other members of the Group to Imperial College to the six monthly meeting of SPAB. The subject was 'Post Mills' and was quite an interesting day.

Chairman's Diary continued

In late March, H.M.G.'s quarterly meeting was held at Durley Mill by kind permission of our members; John & Janet Hammond. The meeting was held on the adapted bin floor and was very much enjoyed by all who came along. After the meeting, John & Janet provided extremely tasty refreshments and members were able to look at what a delightful home the mill has become for the Hammond family.

Also in late March, Gavin Bowie contacted me reference publicity for the National Mills Weekend. He volunteered the use of the H.C.C. Cousin Web Site to give details of all mills open to view. Lyn Peet offered to co-ordinate the details and the whole thing was a great success! Thanks Gavin and Lyn.

On 16th April, I spoke on the History of Milling to Bishopstoke 50+ Club, resulting in another donation to H.M.G. funds.

The 'Heavy Gang' is working hard on the restoration of Timsbury water driven pump and we hope to complete the work this year.

Further work has been carried out at Eling Tide Mill and this may continue as required by the Trustees of the mill.

In late April, Tony Yoward was kind enough to take a party from the University of the Third Age on a visit to Bursledon Windmill and Chase and Hockley Watermills which they seem to have thoroughly enjoyed. Many thanks Tony!

On 4th May, I attended City Mill Winchester to assist with a visit of the Winchester Association of the National Trust. This organisation has helped in fund raising for the restoration of the mill and is almost entirely made up of National Trust members. Bob Goodwin milled some good flour and members of the Association took it home to try their hand at bread making. Well done Bob and Paula and Anne

On 7th May, Mick and I met John Townsend of the Test Valley Planning Department at Town Mills, Andover to look at the mill with the new landlord who wants to put a replacement wheel in the wheel pit (which is glass sided). Installing a wheel & sluices would give him back control of the river and it would certainly give the customers something to look at while drinking and eating. We gave the landlord contact names etc., so we hope that a wheel will appear in due course.

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th May was National Mills Weekend and about ten mills were open. I was at Hockley Mill on Sunday and I had just under thirty visitors (which was disappointing) but I signed up a new member, sent details to another and met a young man who wants to become a Millwright!!! Now, that's a find. He's joined the group so, 'welcome Joshua'.

On 11th May, Margaret and I took a friend of ours who lives in America, to see Whitchurch Silk Mill and then the Wind Engine at Crux Easton. The staff at Whitchurch showed us round and explained the intricacies of silk weaving and, after lunch at the mill, we went to Crux Easton and were met by Carol who showed Roland the engine and the well. He was very impressed. Thanks Carol.

I spent the 13th & 14th of May in the Isle of Wight looking to see if there is enough material to make a visit for the SPAB Day Tour in May 2005. Yafford Mill is now a house conversion but Bembridge Windmill, Pan Mill, Newport, Lower Mill and Upper Mill Calborne are all still 'visitable'. We also hope to see Yarmouth Tide Mill, Carisbrooke Castle (to see the donkey wheel) and Vestas Wind Systems to view new wind turbines in the making.

Not all of these may be available but we hope they will.

On 19th May, John Christmas and I attended a conference at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford, arranged by Thames Valley Energy and entitled "Hydro Power in South East England". This proved to be an interesting day with some quite contrasting views on how practical it was (and was not) to produce power from falling water. The speaker, who was most pessimistic, was representing a company already operating about a dozen water turbines and I'm not at all sure that his pessimistic outlook wasn't aimed at putting people off in order to limit the opposition he is getting at present.

On 30th May, Tony Yoward and I attended our member, John Lovell's 'Open Day' at Lords Farm, Sheet. John had kindly put out his scale models of Steep Watermill and the mighty Dock Mill in Southsea. The Dock Mill itself was some seven stories high and the scale model is a very impressive sight. The weather was mainly good with a few showers and a large crowd gathered to see everything from steam traction engines to model boats. A very good time was had by all and a sizeable donation to Cancer charities will, I think, ensue. Well done John.



THE NATIONAL TRUST

I am a member of the National Trust. Imagine my surprise when I opened my Summer 2004 magazine and under the "Thames & Solent News" banner, the article below jumped out at me. Obviously, I wanted to share it with you but, if I had not been a NT Member, this exciting piece of Hampshire News would have been missed. If you are aware of any publication featuring an article that would be of interest to other HMG Members, please don't wait for someone else to send it in, I would rather receive it five times from five different people, than not receive it at all.

Thrills at the Mill



Miller, Bob Goodwin

With its recent return to milling flour and a 450th anniversary to celebrate, 2004 is an important year for Winchester City Mill.

2004 sees the 450th anniversary of a major event in the history of Winchester City Mill. In 1554 the marriage of Mary Tudor to Philip of Spain took place in Winchester Cathedral, and in recompense for costs incurred, Mary gifted a mill to the city, henceforth known as Winchester City Mill.

This year, from Saturday 24th July the historic mill joins other attractions in Winchester in commemorating the Marriage of England and Spain with nine days of special exhibitions and events.

Celebrations at the Mill start with a weekend of Tudor food tastings and 16th

century music. The theme continues throughout the week with lunchtime talks on Tudor topics, and culminates the following weekend with Tudor re-enactors giving lively accounts of the wedding!

Earlier this year the Mill celebrated its return to the milling of flour for the first time in over 90 years. There are regular milling demonstrations, special activities during school holidays and on Saturday 14th August the Mill takes part in the Hampshire Water Festival, celebrating the importance of water in our lives.

If you stand with your feet just inches above the water of the River Itchen as it roars through the races of the mill, you will experience one of Winchester's best kept secrets: the thrill of the mill!

Your News and Letters

A Dying French Custom - La Minoterie

Jim & Ann Knights

Along a small river near our house in France, there used to be three watermills. Many of us are familiar with the French name for a miller - meunier, but not all millers are known as meuniers. The millers along the river had that title, but one of the three was the local minotier.

I tried to obtain explanations for the different names and the fact that one watermill processed animal feed, the second processed woad but the third made the fine white flour used for bread and cakes.

The coarse flour of the traditional country bread was used to make 'pain complet', but to obtain a 'pain blanc', the process came from white flour from the minoterie. In local parlance, the word minot is taken to mean fine white flour. I believe the original word 'minot' is an ancient French measure for three bushels (a bumpkin).

The tradition in farming areas was for a client of the minotier to take sacks of wheat weighing 81 kilos to the minoterie. That is, 80 kilos for the wheat and 1 kilo for the sack. In patois a pocket of wheat.

The minotier gave the client a book of tickets (a carnet) which gave the client the right to exchange tickets to the value of 125 livres of white bread when the minotier made his delivery round in the area. The client also received a bag of son weighing 25 livres - a livre being the equivalent of half a kilo. 'Son' is the coarse part of the wheat which includes the bran de son. The son was fed to the farm rabbits and pigs.

The mathematicians among us will have concluded that 5 kilos of wheat are not accounted for. These were the fee charged by the minotier to be turned into bread for sale to the non-farming members of the community.

The farming community never used money to pay for their bread. The 85 year old grandmother still complains that the minotier used a heavy hand to bang the bread on the scales swiftly, followed by his knife to take off a chunk of the loaf, saying 'too heavy'.

Your News & Letters

ELING TIDE MILL UPDATE

David Plunkett

As many HMG members are aware; Eling Tide Mill has been through a very difficult period over the past six months. For a number of reasons, the mill was closed in December and sadly neglected for much of the following months.

After much volunteer assistance and "Heavy Gang" help from HMG, it was able, via its owners the New Forest District Council, to reopen to the public on National Mills Day, May 2004. The Mill Manager has returned to post, but under different management conditions. Three different Trustees have more defined roles in the day to day management of this historic tide mill. Mrs Edith Randle, dealing with press, media and shop sales; Mr W (Bill) Catt, dealing with daily finance, banking and admissions and; me (David Plunkett) with a larger and more technical roll as Line Manager to the Mill Manager and co-ordinator of all things Molinological and millwrighting.

During the closed period, I found myself (as one of the Trustees with any knowledge of mills), temporary Caretaker and co-ordinator of repairs and maintenance. So here is an account of what has happened in the early months of 2004 from my diary. This is not a substitute for the Chairman's diary! !

- Sat 3rd Jan: HMG work party, to clean out the bin loft (storage areas) after over 20 years use.
- Sat 10th Jan: HMG work party again, to continue cleaning the bin loft and sort out goods and rubbish..
- Fri 29th Jan: ETM Trustees AGM – dealt with the seriousness of the enforced closure and the necessity to keep volunteer activities to cleaning and inspection rather than repairs at this stage. Thanks were expressed for HMG direct help to date.
- Tue 17th Feb: Mill site safety checks in afternoon. Rat bait all taken and no shortage of rats in mill.
- Sun 14th Mar: Mill site, internal and external checks
- Sat 20th Mar: SPAB Mills Meeting, London. Meet other HMG member present.
- Sat 3rd Apr: HMG Mill Work Party. Attempt at fixing marine ply to face of decayed storm hatch.
- Fri 16th Apr: Mill Priorities Meeting, report & write off, old stock.
- Thu 22nd Apr: Mill, New Management Meeting with NFDC at Mill.
- Tue 27th Apr: 2.0pm Winchester, HCC Museums meeting with Director Stephen Locke.
3.45pm NFDC Meeting with Trustees at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst.
- Tue 4th May: Mill, County Museums inspection by Gavin Bowie & DP for report by Stephen Locke to the Trustees.
- Sat 8th May: Pre-National Mills Day, repairs, cleaning and decoration to allow public to have safe access next day. Assisted by J Silman and J Christmas. Proof of safe operation of any machinery of prime importance at this stage. Sack hoist, not complying with insurance requirements, so isolated from drive until repaired.
- Sun 9th May: National Mills Day. Official re-opening of mill to the public by NFDC chairman with trustee DP and selection of other trustee's. Mill turning for first time in about six months. Internal control gates leaking badly and sea hatches in poor condition but operable within safety constraints.
- Wed 19th May: To Appletree Court for Eling Mill, Capital Issues Meeting in pm
- Thu 20th May: Mill inspection with Mill Manager (DBE), repairs and supervision in hand plus priorities for urgent further repairs and insurance issues.

Continued.....

Your News & Letters

ELING TIDE MILL UPDATE Continued.....

Wed 2nd Jun: 2.0pm Mill, Capital Projects Group Meeting with NFDC staff at Mill.

7.0pm 73rd Meeting of Trustees, held at Heritage Centre, Eling. The usual official headings of Building Work, Publicity / Displays / Marketing, Finance, Ticket Prices, Composition of Trust, Health and Safety, Mill Managers Report and Staffing Issues. Will add that admission for adults is now £2.00, OAP's £1.50 & children (under 16) £1.00. Visitor numbers are seriously down on this time last year because of extended closure and lack of marketing. The funding budget is up, to allow for immediate repairs and forward estimates funding for new sluice gates and sea hatches is being programmed into future finances.

Thu 6th Jun: 2.30pm Sea Hatches Design, site meeting with local consulting engineers Giffords.

The outline drawing proposals are now to be turned into a fully worked up specification and detail drawings to allow this to go out to formal tender, later this year.

Since then, there has been liaison with various firms and individuals ranging from Dorethea Restorations, director Geoff Wallis, millwright Malcolm Cooper to NFDC staff and mill trustees.



Counsellor John Hutchins, Chairman of NFDC with David Plunkett, Staff, Friends And Trustees of Eling Tide Mill on National Mills Day

News from Other Regions

This e-mail was forwarded to me by Andy Fish and although the opening date is past, I felt that you might like the other information contained within it

Sent by - Pat Hunter - Secretary of the Friends of Heage Windmill.

Dear Friends

I hope you are all aware that Heage Windmill will be open for the first time this year on Saturday 3rd April at 11.00 a.m. This year the official opening will be performed by local historian, raconteur and author George Sparham at 12.00 noon on Saturday 3rd April.

On Sunday 28th March around 60 kilos of grain was ground into wholemeal flour by the French burr stones at Heage Windmill. As the Food Hygiene regulations have now been met, the flour will be on sale for the first time on Saturday 3rd April. The 1.5 kilo bags retail at £2.00 and the commemorative souvenir cotton sacks of 500g retail at £1.50p. There is a limited supply so don't delay. The good news is that more will be available in the future - wind permitting! The wholemeal flour has an old fashioned "nutty" flavour and makes wonderful bread. It has also been tried successfully in other recipes too.

We sincerely hope to welcome you to Heage Windmill again this year.

Your News & Letters

Cricket - The Final Decider

Hampshire Chronicle September 11th, 1858

"CRICKET —Yesterday the third and conquering match between the millers and farmers of this part of the county came off at the Roebuck ground, on the Stockbridge Road, and, as was anticipated, it created considerable interest, and attracted a good many spectators."

The first and return matches, it will be recollected, were played at Sutton Scotney, and resulted in each party gaining the victory in turn - consequently, a more than ordinary interest was felt in this, the decisive struggle for the honours of this season. Each side had evidently exercised a good deal of generalship in selecting their elevens, and having made a few changes in the roll lists, (some from choice and some from necessity of circumstances), two fairly matched, and as it proved, equally matched sides were brought to the field. The farmers were the first to go to wickets, and they commenced in a very rattling style, the first bat (Wolfe) making 33 runs, and exhibiting some fine play. No other double figure was made in the innings, the next highest being an 8, a 7, and a 5. The bowling and fielding of the millers were very good and their opponents total did not after all exceed 64. The millers next went in, and made 49 only, thus being 15 behind; like their opponents they only scored one double, W. Crimble's 12. A most extraordinary and clever catch at point, by Mr. Potticary, brought his innings to rather an abrupt close. Wolfe and Sillence, jun. bowled with great steadiness and precision, and the millers were perforce obliged to use particular caution in guarding their wickets. In their second innings, the farmers could only succeed in scoring 36, the bowling of Luff and Kersley being very excellent, and the fielding of the mates likewise good; five catches were made in the innings, three of them by Kersley.

The millers, in their second innings, succeeded in getting 39 runs; towards the close of the game, the excitement of the spectators was visibly raised, in consequence of the score coming so nearly equal. The batting of Dance, sen. was excellent, and the exertions of the wicket-keeper (Curtis) on the other side were very praiseworthy. When the last man (Dance, jun.) on the millers' side went in, they were 15 or 16 behind their opponents' total; after several overs, in which the bowling was very true and the batting exceedingly careful, about four runs were obtained, when a beautifully pitched ball from Sillence got Kersley's wicket and the game was over, the farmers winning by 12 runs only. The match was the closest, and probably the best played on the ground during the season. The weather in the morning was beautifully fine and the scene very pleasant, but towards the close of the afternoon the atmosphere became hazy and a slight rain fell, but insufficient to seriously incommode the players. Shortly after two o'clock, the two elevens, together with a number of other gentlemen, dined under a commodious tent erected on the ground; about 50 sat down to a very excellent repast, served in Mr. Young's best style, and presided over by the Mayor (J. Dowling, Esq.) The viands were of the most satisfactory kind, and the parties, both at the dinner table, and also in the evening after the play, seemed actuated by the best feelings towards each other, and all passed off exceedingly well. The scores obtained were as follows:—

THE FARMERS				THE MILLERS			
1st Innings		2nd Innings		1st Innings		2nd Innings	
Mr. H. Wolfe, b Kersley	33	b Luff	14	Mr. W. Crimble b Wolfe	12	c S. Sillence, b Wolfe	0
Mr. Curtiss, b Kersley	1	l b w, b Luff	0	Mr. Kersley, b Wolfe	1	b S. Sillence	4
Mr. Potticary, c Crimble b Kersley	7	c Kersley, b Luff	3	Mr. G. Cole, b Wolfe	2	b Wolfe	0
Mr. S. Sillence, b Hutton	0	b Luff	5	Mr. J. Crimble, c Potticary, b Wolfe	2	c Potticary, b Wolfe	0
Mr. Godwin, b Kersley	0	b Luff	1	Mr. J. Hutton, run out	4	b S. Sillence	1
Mr. Smith, c Kersley, b Hutton	8	c and b Kersley	1	Mr. R. Snow, c Potticary, b Sillence	6	b S. Sillence	8
Mr. Cooper, b Kersley	3	c dance, b Kersley	6	Mr. F. Godrich, b. S. Sillence	1	c Wolfe, b Curtis	0
Mr. Rawlins, b Kersley	0	c and b Kersley	0	Mr Luff, hit wicket, b Wolfe	4	b Wolfe	8
Mr. B. Sillence, c Snow, b Luff	1	b Luff	5	Mr. W. F. Knight, run out	1	b Curtis	0
Mr. Spencer, c Knight, b Hutton	5	not out	0	Mr. Dance, not out	7	c Rawlings, b. Wolfe	1
Mr. W. Pern, not out	0	c Godrich, b Kersley	0	Mr. B. Dance, c Potticary, b Wolfe	2	not out	2
Wide, 1; byes, 5	6	Byes, 1	1	Wide, 3; byes, 3; leg-byes, 1	7	wide, 8; b, 5; l-b, 2	15
	64		36		49		39

A very large party met in the evening in the marquee, and the usual toasts were circulated round the board, not forgetting the health of the host for the excellent spread he had set before the company.

Another match played that week was at Clatford between an eleven selected by the Mayor of Winchester, Mr. J. Dowling, and a team brought by his brother Mr. Thomas Dowling of Clatford Mill.

The Cricket Match Series was provided by Ken Kirsopp

Le Moulin du Got

Spirit of the Mill

An excerpt from Le Moulin du Got - La Lettre du Moulin - numero 5 - fevrier 2004

Translated by Mrs Caroline Gardner and Jeff Hawksley

At this time of the year, it is customary to look back and review the year. With more than 8,600 visitors, around 200 members and 25 generous sponsors, we have ended our opening year well ahead of our expectations - many thanks to all our helpers and not forgetting the volunteers of our Association who have worked tirelessly for five years to ensure that the Moulin du Got has been a success. But more important than the numbers has been our ability to achieve our original expectations.

Our challenge has been to avoid two pitfalls; that of a static museum, elitist and uninteresting, and that of a simple production workshop. Between these two extremes, our preference has been, from the outset, to create a space where the ancient crafts and skills can be safeguarded and in which production is not an objective but a means to present the old trades in the most realistic way possible. In this way, the Moulin du Got is a true repository of ancient crafts.

Our greatest reward comes from the messages written by our visitors in our Visitors Book. Selecting just one, I recall the words of one of our junior visitors which summarises perfectly the spirit of the mill - "My feet are tired but it was worth it".

* * * * *

The Craft of Papermaking

The Moulin du Got was built at the beginning of the 16th Century to make paper and it is the last remaining example of the paper mills which were once so important in Limousin. It produced paper continuously until it closed in 1954.

The Mill is situated to the west of Saint Leonard-de-Noblat on the River Tard, a tributary of the River Vienne and it has known generations of paper-makers producing hand made paper from rags for the printers in Paris.

After 1850, at the height of the industrial revolution, the Hollander beater and edge-runner grinding mills replaced the stampers and at that time, wrapping papers were produced from straw. Machines replace hand moulds and production increased.

After the Second World War, the Moulin du Got switched to the manufacture of cardboard from waste paper. It was used to make doll's heads, masks and rocking horses.

The Mill is now owned by the Commune of Saint Leonard-de-Noblat and you are invited to come and see how the workshops have been brought back to life. During your visit, you will be able to create a sheet of paper following age old skills as practised by today's paper-makers. You will be able to prepare the pulp in the ancient Hollander beater and to make some sheets of paper by dipping the mould into the vat, as was done in the 16th Century, or mechanically on the cylinder mould machine built around 1870 and now restored. It was the only surviving paper-making machine at that time at the Moulin du Got and it is a reminder of the era when paper was made from straw. It could also make cardboard.

Whilst the paper was always intended for printers in Paris, now the paper produce at the Moulin du Got is printed here as you watch. The lines of type are composed by hand, letter by letter, or in complete lines using the Linotype machine invented at the end of the 19th Century by a Swiss watchmaker. The printing presses tell the story of printing from the cast-iron Stanhope of the 18th Century worked by hand to the automatic Heidelberg platen press of 1950.

A wide range of lithographs can be created on stones or on metal plates and artists can come to the Moulin du Got to print their own work on paper specially made to their orders

Note from our Chairman

As you can see, Le Moulin du Got have completed their restoration and the mill has been a brilliant success with the visitors. I'm sure that many of you are aware that Chase Mill was involved in the same 'Raphael Grant' as Le Moulin du Got