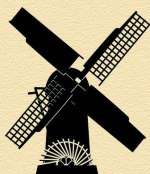


Issue 10

May 2012

Mill Memories

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Mills Archive



Mills Archive Trust

Special features:

This issue includes Talbot Green's article on his family of windmillers, details of progress on the Farries Collection and news of the discovery of a medieval watermill in Northumberland.

Inside this issue:

From our website	2
News from the Archive	3
Mill researchers	4
Windmilling Greens	6
Farries Collection	10
Mill Archaeology	12
Visiting the Archive	13
Joining the Friends	14

Happy 10th Anniversary!

Back in 2002 when we launched the Archive, we had no idea how successful it would be in so many ways:

- Over 100 collections with 2 million items donated
- A convenient and well-appointed Library and Research Centre
- 25 volunteers working to look after the material and make it freely available
- A flourishing Friends' Group with almost 200 members
- Various exciting initiatives and collaborations

To celebrate our first decade, we are organising a Friends' Garden Party and Exhibition at Watlington House on Saturday 7 July 2012. This landmark opportunity to share and influence our vision should not to be missed, so please come and bring a guest.

There will be lots to see - including details of our current and recent projects as well as our plans for the future. You will be able to look round the Archive, talk to our volunteers and tell us what you think about our priorities for the next ten years.

We expect the day to be very popular so please let us know if you are coming and the name of your guest so that we can send you tickets. You can email us at friends@millsarchive.com or write (no stamp required) to Freepost RLYL-EUEZ-YTUE, The Mills Archive Trust, Watlington House, Reading RG1 4RJ



From our website



New area showcasing Featured Mills

We are grateful for the generosity of the many private individuals who help fund our activities by joining the Friends of the Mills Archive. In addition, we are delighted to acknowledge the support of the mills illustrated below, each of which is backing us with regular donations. These include both wind and watermills up and down the country in private and public ownership.

Our aim is to increase the number of mills that we feature. On joining the Friends, each mill is given a dedicated page containing historical and technical information, a 'slide show' of illustrations and a hyperlink to the mill's own website.

Featured mills are eligible for additional benefits, including free publicity for events on our popular weblog, [Mill writing](#).

Please take a look at the Featured Mills page and explore the information that is already there. If you are involved in the care or opening of a mill, why not join us and make yours a Featured Mill?

<http://www.millsarchivetrust.org/index.php/services/mills/>

Brixton windmill 	Bromham watermill 	Clapton watermill 	Cromer windmill 	Redbournbury watermill 
Heron watermill 	High Salvington windmill 	Jill windmill 	Lytham windmill 	Stotfold watermill 

News from the Archive

More World of Difference Winners at the Archive



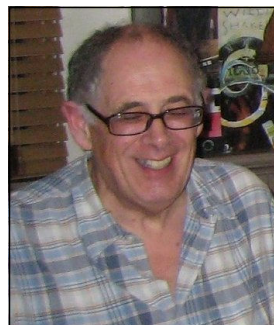
Nathanael Hodge (left) and Guy Boocock

Guy Boocock and Nathanael Hodge will be working on two major projects over the next four months. Each has won a **Vodafone World of Difference Grant** against stiff competition, beating thousands of other entrants. They have been volunteering at the Mills Archive on our work experience scheme. Guy is concentrating on Stephen Buckland's complex and valuable collection. Nathanael will be improving the way our catalogue works so that it can be uploaded to the Archives Hub.

Geoff Holman

It is with great sadness that we relay the news of Geoff's death. He passed away on 20th December in London after a short illness. Geoff was a well-regarded and popular figure in the UK mill world and his many friends will miss his cheerful humour. He was the last mill person in the line of the Holman family of millwrights and was responsible for drawing the threads of the Holmans' story together.

Geoff's family have asked the Mills Archive to accept his mill material and to complete the work he was doing on his exceptionally interesting collection.



Geoff Holman, at a meeting of the Kent Mills Society

MAT on the Archives Hub

The Archives Hub is a website where archive repositories from across the UK upload their catalogues so that the country's archival material can be searched in one place.

Over the last two months, Nathanael Hodge's work has centred around revising our catalogue entries to send to the Hub. The first collection, an album of photographs of windmills taken in the 30s and 40s by a Mr Reid, is now available for viewing on the Hub at <http://archiveshub.ac.uk/data/gb3132reid>.

Contrasting approaches to mill research

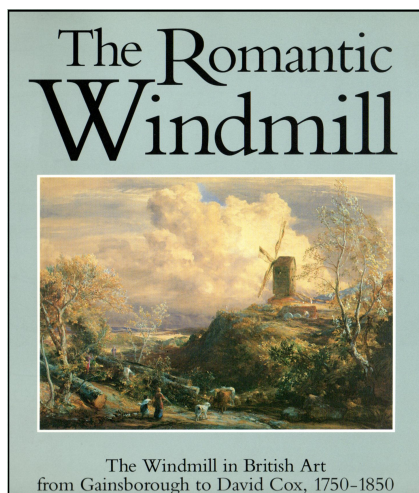
The diversity of the collections held by the Mills Archive is clearly a product of the distinctly different but complimentary approaches to mill research taken by molinologists like Stephen Buckland and Frank Gregory.

Artistic licence or accurate representation?

Frank Gregory's hand in the 1993 Hove exhibition *The Romantic Windmill* was explicitly acknowledged by the curator. The catalogue cover picture by Samuel Palmer shows a black post mill that may have stood near Pulborough. A painting showing a similar mill in a possibly Kentish landscape was auctioned at Bonham's in 2007. Neither is strictly accurate topographically, though presumably the artist had a real mill in his mind's eye, if not in his notebooks.

Frank, like Stephen Buckland, with whom he corresponded, collected reproductions and original pictures of mills of all kinds, including sale and exhibition catalogues. Both enjoyed teasing out the possible identity of an unnamed mill. Whereas Stephen would get out his magnifying glass and assess the technical information in the image, Frank would store it away for possible future reference.

Stephen tended to give the artist the benefit of the doubt as regards authenticity in the portrayal of technical detail, holding that reliable information could be derived from a mill image, whether the mill was the focus or simply part of the furniture of the picture.



Useful if you can find them

Both Frank and Stephen made detailed notes whenever they inspected a mill internally or externally. Each had a different system for arranging their collections of information. To an outsider, it is very difficult to understand how Frank or Stephen could locate the information they needed - but it was always to hand.

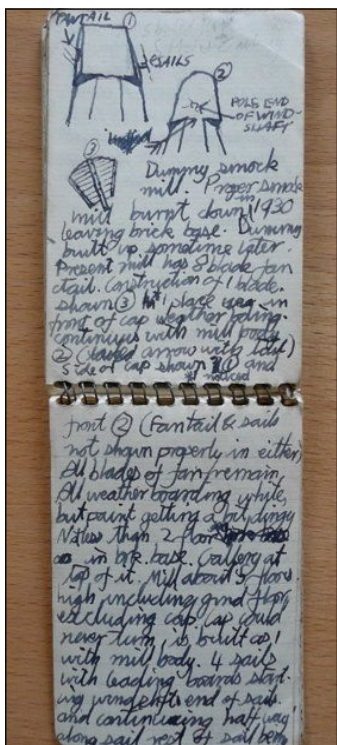
Frank Gregory's approach was to convert his site notes to scaled pencil drawings made on individual sheets of cartridge paper that he kept together.

Contrasting approaches to mill research (continued)



Stephen's site notes remain in his original notebooks. Guy Boocock describes the process of cataloguing these items:

"Stephen's first notebook is dated 1949, when he was just 14, and his last was in 2005 aged 70. That's a total of 56 years and 383 notebooks.



Beginning with the dinky first book, I noted down each individual mill Stephen described on his frequent visits. They include wind and water mills in Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Suffolk, Holland, and France. What has become increasingly evident are his favourite counties and mills – Kent and Sussex, and Brixton Windmill were among his top interests.

The level of detail in his descriptions of each mill he visited is, quite frankly, astonishing. Each notebook has little sketches of mill caps, internal structure, waterwheels and more. He also noted down his conversations with the millers and local folk.

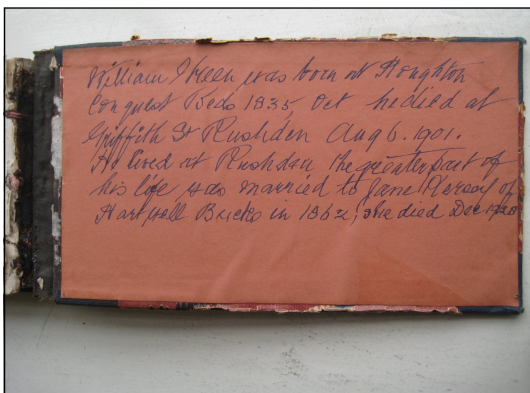
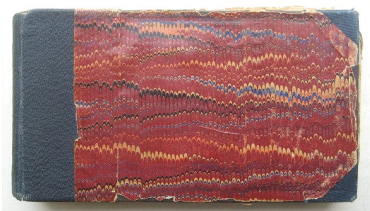
One particular discovery I made was two notebooks containing a massive amount of research on one particular mill, that of Kilburn Lane Windmill, Willesden, London, which burnt down in 1863. This information is extremely valuable to us at MAT because we have very little first-hand research and information on this mill."

Top and left: Stephen Buckland's numerous field notebooks laid out at the start of the cataloguing project

The Greens: A family of windmillers Talbot K Green

Talbot Green's milling ancestry can be traced back to the mid-18th century at Kimbolton windmill, Huntingdonshire. Subsequent generations of Greens were also windmillers, and Talbot's research has identified ten windmills in Cambs, Hunts, Northants and Beds with a family connection. This article describes his process of family history research which began before the days of internet databases.

The Green family were Baptists. My cousin held the family Bible that our great-grandfather William Green of Rushden bought when his boot-making business had set up his fortune. In it, the Family Register pages were bound between the Old and New Testaments. This was very fortunate, providing a treasure trove of family history information.



James Green's book of music that he would have used in the old Baptist Chapel in Kimbolton. One of the songs is carefully written in his own hand; Talbot considers it likely that James perfected this composition while working his windmill. The inside covers are a mass of family history

From the Register, I learned that William's grandfather, James Green, "was born in Kimbolton Windmill in 1771, died in 1848, lived there nearly all his days and was buried in Kimbolton churchyard. He was a singer in the Old Baptist Chapel [and] married a Miss Knight of Rushden about 1793." It follows that James's father was also a miller named Green, born around 1740-50.

The Greens: A family of windmillers (continued)

Tucked into the Bible was a photocopy of the entry in the Rushden marriage register recording Ann Knight's marriage to James Green on 23rd September 1793. I was later able to find the entry in Kimbolton's register confirming his burial there on 3rd February 1849. However, according to the notes of Syd Simmons, for the last years of his life James Green ran one of the two windmills at Tilbrook – the East Mill out on Bustard Hill.

Ann and James had three sons and two daughters. It is not known whether either of the girls married, so the only descent is from the boys who all went into milling. The third son, Edward, was born in 1811 and married a girl named Mary from the Northants village of Lowick. Edward worked at Sharnbrook windmill. Both the windmill and the watermill here were owned by Thomas Gell, and although Edward was employed at the windmill he no doubt had to help out at the watermill when wind was in short supply. The lodge at the bottom of the High Street at Sharnbrook, once occupied by Edward and Mary, still stands.



*Gell's windmill at Sharnbrook
then and now:*

*(left) the derelict and sail-less mill
photographed in July 1933 by*

HES Simmons.

*(right) The converted tower in 2001,
with glazed observatory, clock and
weathercock, photographed by*

Mark Berry

The eldest boy, William (1794-1858), first appears in the splendidly preserved Minute Books for the Manorial Court Baron of Rushden; these form part of the Duchy of Lancaster Records in the National Archives at Kew. When the Homage assembled on 18th November 1823 to discuss manorial business they were informed that, on 4th November 1820, young Mr Green had paid Joseph Manton of Irchester – a customary tenant of Rushden Manor - £35 for the lease of a quarter acre of land alongside the county boundary with Bedfordshire. On this site, adjoining the Rushden to Wymington Road, the foundations of a smock mill were appearing. Adding piquancy to this revelation was the fact that the foreman of the Homage was none other than Samuel Achurch, a baker, who ran the only

The Greens: A family of windmillers (continued)

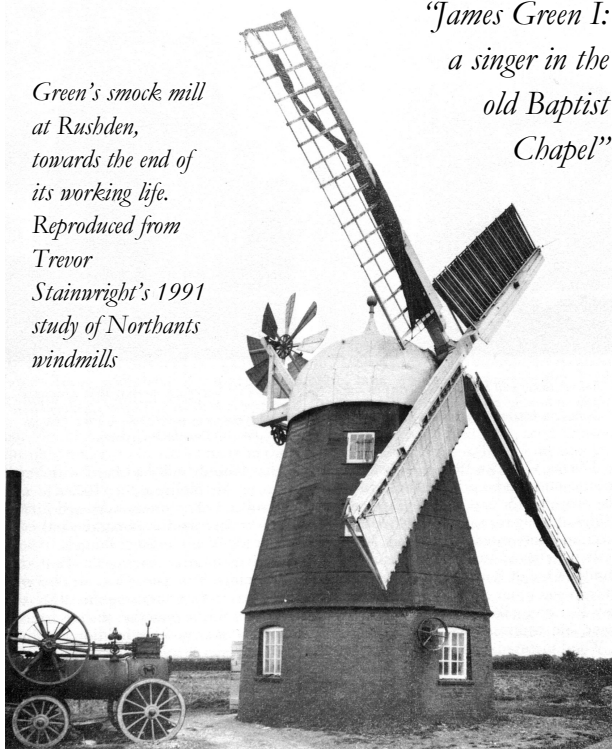
existing mill in the parish and with whom Green's Mill would be in direct competition when completed.

Perhaps because Rushden was expanding rapidly, William's project was allowed to finish. He was now a married man, having taken Mary Ann Austin as his bride the previous May. However, just two years later, at the court held on 12th December 1825, it was reported that William had surrendered his lease three days

earlier to the Lord of the Manor in favour of his brother James II, my own ancestor. The land now supported a corn windmill "lately erected" and fully equipped "with millstones, sails, sailcloths, Going and other gears, machinery and all the other tackle used therein". A striking photograph in Trevor Stainwright's book records this fine mill towards the end of its working life, by which time it had gained a fantail and one pair of spring-shuttered sails. James had paid £265 for the mill, partly financing it with a loan of £140 from William Main, a farmer from St Neots, and was admitted as the new customary tenant by the Deputy Steward, Edward Bouverie.

By 1841, James Green II and his wife Martha, whose family had been blacksmiths in Flitwick, had numerous children. My great-grandfather William

*Green's smock mill
at Rushden,
towards the end of
its working life.
Reproduced from
Trevor
Stainwright's 1991
study of Northants
windmills*



*"James Green I:
a singer in the
old Baptist
Chapel"*

The Greens: A family of windmillers (continued)



Above: Tilbrook West Mill was a Midland-type post mill that survived into the era of the photographer. It was a ruin by the time it was photographed by Syd Simmons in August 1935

Green II (1835-1901) was not born in Rushden like his siblings, but may have appeared unexpectedly early while his mother was visiting her brother Thomas in Houghton Conquest. In the 1841 census, James II is not recorded at home and it is understood he moved out of milling into horse-dealing. Correspondingly, later in 1841 the windmill's lease was sold to an Edward Green who may have been an uncle. Remarkably, C F Tebbutt, in his 1936 paper on Cambs and Hunts windmills, notes the name Edward Green together with the date 1826 carved on a beam in Tilbrook West windmill.

Rushden Mill carried on in the hands of Edward's son Joseph's family. His wife Mary had died by 1871, leaving him with a couple of rather useless sons, a daughter, Deborah, and his niece Jane. She married Thomas Perkins who served as the carter as well as the miller. Deborah's husband was the blacksmith Wilfred Lewis, one of a family of seven boys whose names all began with 'W'! The Lewis family were

running the mill at the time the photograph was taken, and the portable steam engine alongside the mill would have allowed milling to continue on windless days. The mill finally broke down c1915 and was dismantled in the 1920s. John Dilley, whose brothers Bill and Fred had worked at the mill before WWI, purchased the surviving brick base from Deb Lewis and turned it into a cottage, which still survives.

Numerous family history resources and hundreds of publications relating to milling history are available to those interested in their genealogy. Much can be accessed online, at www.millsarchivetrust.org, as well as at our Library and Research Centre at Reading.

Bookshelf



This section is devoted to books in the Mills Archive. It looks at recent additions and interesting mill books in our collection of more than 2,000 volumes. The new library catalogue is on the Friends' site at <http://www.millsarchivetrust.org/index.php/library>.

We also feature examples of the books we have for sale. These are all surplus to our needs.. The bookshop is also on the Friends' website at <http://shop.millsarchivetrust.org/>.

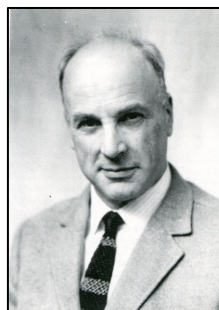
The books and the collection of Kenneth G Farries Michael Harverson

Anyone working with archives has to be indefatigable. Currently the Mills Archive has a splendid team of young volunteers, one of whom, Chris Wheeler, has made a valuable start to the task of making the Farries Collection available to researchers.

The work of Ken Farries is probably unique in mill literature: five volumes devoted to the windmills, the millers and the millwrights of Essex, published in the 1980s, following his comprehensive study of *The Windmills of Surrey and Inner London* in 1966. Many molinologists treasure copies of his books as star items in their collections.

A friend said of him: "Ken was indefatigable"

Ken taught geography at Reigate Grammar School for thirty years. During the 1950s and 60s, Ken devoted much of his leisure time to mill recording. In the company of Denis Sanders, Ken concentrated on the derelict windmills of Essex. Meanwhile, he had embarked on researching what became the Surrey book, with Martin Mason. They finished the field work and library research by 1959 and Ken spent the next 7 years writing it up for publication.



Ken Farries in his teaching days

Ken readily acknowledged his debt to his co-workers. The photographs for the Surrey book were taken by Martin T Mason, while Ken wrote the text. For the Essex research, Ken's chief assistants were Denis Sanders, Roland Smith and Ronald Hawksley, of whom Ken wrote: "His keenly critical approach has been accepted as a salutary form of shock treatment, calculated to reduce flabbiness of thought to a minimum!"

The books and the collection of Kenneth G Farries (continued)

Several years ago Ken's widow Penelope donated a great number of his letters, notes and photos to the Mills Archive, and more recently their son Nicholas donated additional, newly-discovered boxes of documents and illustrations. This material, which fills six large archival boxes, complements the parts of the collection held by the Essex Record Office, being more diverse and wide-ranging in its content. Our holdings are augmented by Denis Sanders' fieldwork and the collection of Michael Short who has donated his own work, plus Martin Mason's



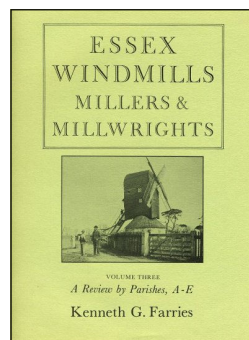
Farries (right) and Mason (centre) at the launch of 'Surrey and Inner London' in 1966

photos. At the Archive we now have all of the latter, and have scanned many at much higher resolution than they appear in the book.

Ken set high standards for future researchers. He unlocked the memories of people who had known mills in their active days, as far back as the mid-19th century. He studied the mapping of mills in scholarly detail, distinguishing reliable surveying from guesswork; recording in photos mills that are now long gone. He documented a craft, millwrighting, almost in its death throes in 1950. He showed how an erudite subject could be treated elegantly, making a good read.

Rex Wailes wrote to Ken in March 1967: "Your Surrey book is the best since the 18th century" ... "I enjoy it for endless reasons, not least the style and the dry humour of the writing." A distinguished Essex County Archivist, F.G. Emmison, sent Ken a generous letter in 1981, commenting on the "superhuman task...I am overwhelmed with the standards you set yourself.. .magnificent book". The Mills Archive's holdings include Ken Farries' SPAB Mills Section Windmill Certificate, awarded in 1985. He was the first person to receive a certificate for his written work alone.

Much of the Farries collection has now been listed, but masses of notes, cuttings, prints and letters await attention. We not only house donated material, we also strive to catalogue and share it. It is not left to gather dust.



New to the Mills Archive Library

Barrowburn: The rediscovery of a medieval fulling mill

Project report by Coquetdale Community Archaeology

Documentary references from the 13th century mention a fulling mill on the River Coquet, near modern Barrowburn in Northumberland. Over a century ago, local antiquarian David Dippie Dixon observed that, when the water was low, timber and masonry could be seen on the riverbed.

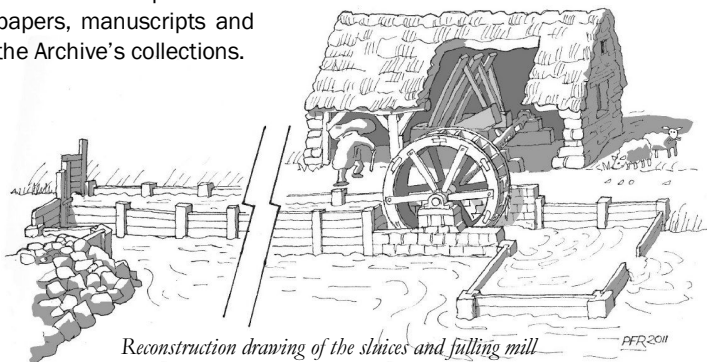


The masonry wheelpit

In 2010 two sites were pinpointed and the following year they were excavated by members of Coquetdale Community Archaeology. A masonry wheelpit was uncovered at the downstream site and a timber structure, possibly related to sluices, was found upstream.

Few medieval water-powered sites have been excavated, making this site and the quality of the remains highly significant. The features probably survived in such good condition because the site appears to have been abandoned in the 14th century and was not subsequently redeveloped.

It is CCA's intention to publish their findings following a second excavation season in July this year. We are grateful to David Jones of CCA who has kindly donated a CD-ROM and a hard copy of the 2011 interim fieldwork report to the Mills Archive. These resources are now available to researchers; they have been added to the large number of unpublished research papers, manuscripts and theses in the Archive's collections.



Reconstruction drawing of the sluices and fulling mill

Visiting the Mills Archive

Friends and members of the general public are welcome to visit us in Reading. The address is on the back page and our website includes an interactive map.

Our Library and Research Centre are on the ground floor of Watlington House, and we are convenient for the town centre with a large free car park.

As we are open only when volunteers are working, it is important that you make an appointment before travelling. We can arrange to be open most working days between 10 and 4. Saturday mornings are sometimes possible as well.

It will save you time if you can let us know beforehand of any specific research you are undertaking, so that we can retrieve the files from our store before you arrive.

Email info@millsarchive.com 1–2 weeks before your planned trip and offer us alternative dates if possible. We will do our best to be there when you need us.

*The Mills Archive Library
and Research Centre
Ground floor access
Appointment necessary*



Watlington House

Free car park

10 minutes' walk from

Reading Station

Please join the Friends of the Mills Archive



Opening the Library 2006

As the Archive plans for the long term, monthly standing orders are vital to ensure that regular costs are covered by regular income. So to qualify for full membership, we ask you to complete and return the standing order form opposite. Single donations are also very welcome, and in return for a donation of £25 we will send you three free copies of *Mill Memories*.

Regular public support is a major influence on grant-giving bodies. The Heritage Lottery Fund, a generous supporter of our cataloguing, likes to feel its grants echo public interest. Regular donations by many people are the best way of signalling that interest and guaranteeing the long-term success of the Mills Archive.

Key Benefits of Membership

*"We all need
Friends!"*

Mill Memories, every 6 months.

Two free invitations to exclusive Friends' events.

Internet privileges including:

- Discounts on purchases from our Internet shop
- Early warnings of additions to our shop
- Waiving of copyright fees
- Much-reduced research fees

10 high-resolution images each year from the Mills Archive, emailed on request.

Additional benefits will be announced in *Mill Memories*.



The Friends' Website

Check the Friends' Website

www.millsarchivetrust.org

Internet shop

Mills Archive Library Catalogue

News of Mills

Mystery Mills and Oddities

Friends' Notice Board

Mill Writing blog

Family History Searches

Useful Links

I wish to join the Friends of the Mills Archive and I have completed the standing order form for at least £5 per month

Or I wish only to receive *Mill Memories* and enclose a cheque for £25 payable to The Mills Archive Trust

And I am a UK taxpayer so you may reclaim Gift Aid on my contribution (*please delete if not appropriate*)

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel _____

Email _____

Note we will not divulge your information to any other organisation or individual.

Standing Order Form	To Bank	Branch
----------------------------	---------	--------

Address _____	Postcode _____
---------------	----------------

Please Pay SANTANDER plc, BOOTLE Sort code 09-01-53 Account No 21695488

Credit THE MILLS ARCHIVE TRUST

The Sum of £_____ (amount in words: _____)

Commencing _____ and then every _____ (due date & frequency)

Until further notice or until _____ and debit my/our account accordingly

Name of account _____ Account No _____

This replaces my/our previous standing order for the transfer of £_____ to the same account

Name _____ Signature _____

Name _____ Signature _____ (if second required)

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____



The Friends of the Mills Archive

Part of The Mills Archive Trust

Registered Charity no 1091534

**Watlington House
44 Watlington Street
Reading, RG1 4RJ
United Kingdom**

The Friends of the Mills Archive are dedicated to supporting the work of the Mills Archive Trust and we value new members. We extend a warm welcome to family, local and national historians as well as to those who simply want to find out more about our milling heritage.

The Mills Archive is one of the world's great mill collections. It is an Aladdin's cave filled with memories, free to users and run by volunteers. The collections show the rich and diverse crafts, people, buildings, machinery and equipment involved with mills in the UK and around the world.

Friends enjoy a number of benefits (see page 14) as well as knowing they are helping to protect an unrivalled world-class resource.

Please help us to save the memories!

For more information write to the address above or email us

friends@millsarchivetrust.org

In the Next Issue of Mill Memories

Muscle-powered mills of all types

Cataloguing progress with the Mildred Cookson Foundation Collection

*Horse power on
the farm - from
the Mildred
Cookson
Foundation
Collection*

