

Issue 12

Spring 2013

Mill Memories

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Mills Archive



Inside this issue:

News from the Archive	3
Step changes at MAT	4
MAT and academics	6
Research competition	9
Muscle-powered mills	10
Archive collections	13
New milling books	15
Joining the Friends	18

Right:

In late April a gathering of volunteers at Watlington House celebrated Ron Cookson's MBE and ten years of the Mills Archive. See page 3 for more news of our recent activities

Making The Mills Archive sustainable

We need to be sure that future generations will be able to benefit from the hard work put in by our volunteers and the generous donations from our supporters. In December 2012 we passed two important milestones: we accepted our 100th collection, and have now invested £500,000 in caring for them.

These achievements demonstrate that there is a continuing need for a specialist archive on mills and milling, and that we are uniquely positioned to fulfil and develop that function.

Knowing we cannot sit still, over the next five years we will be investing in the future in three ways: by improving our storage, by seeking national accreditation, and by securing our finances through the creation of an endowment fund. More information about these three areas of activity can be found on pages 4 & 5.

Ron Cookson MBE (Chairman)



From our website blog - *Mill Writing*



A recent headline from our popular weblog is reproduced below. *Mill Writing* is a public forum for you to express your views on mills and milling, located on the Friends' website (address above). We welcome your contributions to the debate. Why not start by reading what other people have to say, and adding a comment?

New accessions

Nathanael Hodge writes: Each year we shall be providing the National Archives with a list of material that we have received. The latest list includes 23 collections of varying size and importance, three of which are important millwrighting records.

Some of the collections may not yet be available to view as they are largely unsorted and in a vulnerable state. We do, however, welcome enquiries!

The list includes the following significant donations:

- Approximately 1000 pen and ink sketches of windmills, two watercolours and a handful of associated documents by Karl Salisbury Wood (1888-1958), artist.
- Approximately 200 engineering drawings from Joseph J. Armfield & Co. Ltd, engineers, millwrights, brass and iron founders and turbine manufacturers.
- Nine boxes of material on the Holman Brothers, millwrights - ledgers and commercial records of the firm as well as research material on the firm and family gathered by Geoff Holman. See page 11 for details.
- One box of Essex windmill photographs (prints and some negatives) from the 1930s to the 1950s by Rex Wailes (1901-1986), consultant on mill repair and industrial archaeology.
- Eight boxes of architectural drawings, correspondence, documents and photographs relating to the restoration and conservation of windmills and watermills - the collection of Christopher Loudon Wallis (1935-2006), civil engineer and expert in restoration and conservation of vernacular structures.

To view the full list, log on to our website and go to <http://tinyurl.com/d4myps2>

A year of news from the Archive

Ron Cookson MBE (June 2012)



Peter King, Vice-Chairman, writes: I am pleased to report that Dr Ron Cookson, founding chairman of the Mills Archive Trust, has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list, "for services to heritage". I know that Ron was astonished and gratified by the news. He has asked me to say that he regards the award as national recognition of the hard work and dedication shown by all of the Mills Archive's friends, volunteers and trustees, and he is delighted to accept it on that basis.

MAT on the Archives Hub (July 2012)

Nathanael Hodge reports that the details of 14 separate collections have been added to the Archives Hub. These include two full catalogues, the Reid Windmills Albums and E Lancaster Burne Correspondence, and twelve described at collection level only. Our aim is to maximise the public visibility of our collections. The Archives Hub also made the Mills Archive the subject of its monthly feature, which can be read at <http://archiveshub.ac.uk/features/millsarchive/>.

Results of user survey revealed (November 2012)

Ron Cookson reports that our survey of Mills Archive users attracted a very encouraging 35% response rate and the results were impressively consistent. Four separate areas of our activity were covered: the physical amenities we offer, our Internet services, the content of our collections and our education and outreach services. The top results in each category were:

- 94% of respondents felt that the most important amenities provided by the Mills Archive are quiet surroundings conducive to research
 - 74% identified our most important service over the Internet as a helpful and knowledgeable initial response to an email query.
 - 83% felt that the most important documents and images from our collections are photographs showing the condition of mills over the years.
 - 74% considered our most important outreach services and education themes to be those focussed on promoting an interest in mills to the general public.
-

Step-changes at the Mills Archive in 2013

Ron Cookson

Storage

We are currently investing in environmental monitoring and placing all our material in appropriate archival enclosures. With some two million records in our care, this project requires a big investment of time and money. An important spin-off from this work will be clearer public information on all the collections we hold, even if they are not yet catalogued in detail.

The processing of collections increases demand for shelf space, resulting in efforts to increase our storage capacity in the short term. Our first priority is to provide a home for vulnerable collections and make them available to the public.

Longer-term we will need a purpose-built store. The physical care of the archive accords as closely as practicable with the relevant British Standard, covering matters such as the site and structure of the repository; its security from fire, damp, unauthorised entry and vandalism; the control of its internal environment and methods of storage and display.



We can meet our storage needs in the short term by installing more shelving, but long term a much greater storage capacity is needed.

Accreditation

Since establishment in 2002 our policies have aimed to meet 'The National Archives Standard for Record Repositories'. Being close to meeting these standards, we will be seeking full recognition from the National Archives by way of their new Accreditation Scheme. Their summary of the scheme reveals why we will be investing so much energy in meeting all the requirements:

"Archive Service Accreditation is a UK-wide standards scheme to be launched in 2013 - 2014, supporting improvement and development for archive services.

Step-changes at the Mills Archive in 2013 (continued)

Accredited archive services will provide a high level of service to their users, preserve their collections in line with national standards and be robust, sustainable services which plan and deliver ongoing improvement.

[Accreditation] provides an archive service with a mark of recognition and an endorsement of their service."

Endowments

Permanence is fundamental to the nature of any archive. A sufficient endowment would give us the sustainability we need to provide services for future generations. Such a capital base will provide financial security for a permanent qualified archivist, support for researchers, funds for the care and housing of our collections and the prevention of deterioration in their physical condition. Together these aspects will reassure depositors that their valuable collections will be professionally handled and made easily and enduringly accessible to the public.



To gain accreditation we must ensure our collections are protected in line with national standards.

We will aim to create an endowment of at least £1 million, the minimum we need to offer permanent employment to a qualified archivist who would be paid from the interest returned on the total. Such a full-time post is an essential step on the road to national accreditation. Retaining a qualified archivist will provide the expertise we will need to improve the care of our collections whilst allowing us to expand our services to current users. Currently we can only open to the

public for a few hours each week when we have sufficient volunteer cover, with visitors requiring an appointment alongside having given one week's notice.

Our endowment programme, *Empowering the Archive*, will accelerate our move from being a successful, specialist group to becoming a permanent national centre and professional repository for information about mills and milling, perhaps the most significant, influential and long-lasting aspect of our industrial heritage.

Archives and academics

Liz Bartram

My name is Liz Bartram. I won a place on the 2012 Vodafone World of Difference Programme, which has given me the chance to work on a project for a charity of my choice (in 2013) and get paid for my time.

Securing funding from different streams will be essential for the advancement and sustainability of The Mills Archive, and one way we can achieve this is by building relationships with higher education institutions.

My role

Central to my project is the acquisition of academic contacts. I hope to start a discussion with universities and academics by proposing a new fund called The Mills Archive Scholarship Fund, which will enable university students to participate at the Archive. This participation will involve extended work experience and research placements that utilise our wealth of resources, while offering us the opportunity to be enriched by new ideas, skills and academic specialisms.

I hope that my work will assist with fundraising and development and facilitate collaboration long-term. Ultimately, this approach should widen our audience by encouraging a diverse range of people to become involved in our activities.

Why academic contacts are important for The Mills Archive

Success in academic relationship-building will help us to achieve the following objectives:

1. To facilitate and encourage public inspection of the records and their use in research and learning

We were created to preserve documents and images related to mills and milling technology, and to make this material publicly available. By developing academic contacts and encouraging students to work and conduct academic research at the Archive, we will promote our records to a larger audience and further establish ourselves as a centre of excellence for research and learning.

We will be able to reach out and connect with a wider range of people who may not have otherwise considered getting involved, or may not have even been aware of our existence. The Scholarship Fund will attract more young people with a wide range of academic interests, such as industrial archaeology, social history and photography.

Archives and academics (continued)

2. To establish and maintain a permanent record repository for historical and contemporary material on traditional mills and milling

Our key objective is to ensure the Archive remains sustainable in order to provide a permanent centre for research and learning and a secure home for our present holdings and collections we will receive in the future.

The development of academic links should have a positive effect on our long-term fundraising capabilities by increasing our successes in winning grants. Many grant-giving bodies look for collaborative working in grant applications. It is often a requirement that the charity has secured money from elsewhere and is therefore not solely relying on one foundation. Higher education institutions have their own funding streams that they are able to tap into and this in turn could have benefits for a charity collaborating on a project.



Liz Bartram and Guy Boocock, our 2013 Vodafone World Of Difference award-winning volunteers.

Grant-givers also usually prefer projects that engage with a large section of society, either through volunteer involvement or the provision of a resource for a wide range of people. We tick both of these boxes.

Academic relationship-building can help address the issues facing archives

The archives sector as a whole shares the same overarching objectives with regard to ensuring that their material is publicly accessible and that it reaches as wide an audience as possible. The National Archives identifies widening participation as a key issue for the archives sector.

Developing academic contacts and working with universities will help us to promote the Archive and to grow by gaining access to a range of students and academics who offer their own knowledge and skills. As we establish ourselves as a centre for academic research we will make it clear that we are here to stay.

The Cornwell family of millers

In 2006 we received a small collection from Guy Cornwell (see illustrations). The box contained material on William Cornwell and his son Ernest, who worked as millers at the Sun Flour Mills Company and the William King Flour Mill, Uxbridge, in the early 20th century. As part of our cataloguing process Nathanael added the following to the Profiles section of our website :



Above: Certificate of service presented to William Cornwell on his retirement from the Sun Flour Mills in 1926.

<http://www.millsarchivetrust.org/index.php/profiles/>

William Cornwell was born in Littlebury, Essex, in 1833. He was employed as a pupil of Joseph Wisely, a miller at Ickenham, and married Mary Ann Lofts, the miller's niece. He moved to St Albans, Hertfordshire, as a 'working miller', and then to Bow, London, where his son Ernest, twins Archie and Arthur and a daughter were born. William was employed as manager, director and then managing director at the Sun Flour Mills Company. Ernest also joined the company and was an active member of the Corn Exchange, Mark Lane. He married Perpetua Hambridge in 1913. Sun Flour Mills became a part of the Associated London Flour Mills in 1921.

William then bought the smaller William King Flour Mill at Uxbridge, Middlesex, of which Archie and Arthur became directors, joined later by Ernest after the closure of Sun Flour Mills. William had retired to Wanstead, Essex, in 1926; he died there in 1933. Ernest died suddenly in 1935, aged 56.

The William King Flour Mill remained the property of the family until 1955, when it passed to Allied Bakeries, giving its name to the Kingsmill brand of bread.

Source: The Cornwell Family Collection, GB/3132/CORN, The Mills Archive

The Mills Archive Research Competition 2014

The Mills Archive's successful Research Competition will be held, for the second time, in 2014 – with proposed titles required by the first of December this year. Completed entries must be submitted by 31st May 2014 and the winning submissions will be announced by 31st July 2014.

The research must be on a topic connected with a traditional use of wind, water or muscle power. Subjects such as steam power or roller mills are admissible, although the judges must be convinced that they are sufficiently molinological!

Use of the Archive and its holdings is recommended, although it is not a condition of entry. As before, two competitions will be run simultaneously:

- The **Research Prize of £500** is for a major piece of previously unpublished research (c25,000 words) which will be printed as an A4-size standalone publication.
- The **Research Award of £50** is for shorter original research communications of about 5,000 words; the winning entry will be published as a special edition of *Mill Memories*.

For the full rules of the competition, please go to www.millsarchivetrust.org and follow the link on the home page. Good luck to all entrants!



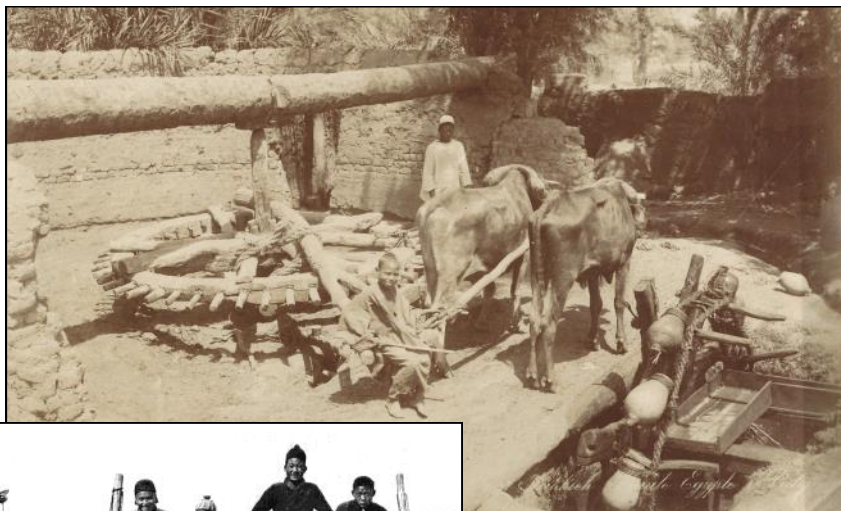
Above: Documents, news cuttings and photographs from the Guy Cornwell collection.

Milling by muscle power - from the Mildred Cookson Collection

At the Mills Archive, our central focus is on traditional mills employing either wind or water power. To concentrate on these power sources and their application to corn milling alone would result in a very 'dry' archive with little colour or variety.

Fortunately, the breadth of many of our collections illustrates the fascinating variety of uses to which wind and water power were put, and also the extensive and surprising array of mills, and similar structures, operated by power sources other than wind or water.

These illustrations, from Mildred Cookson's Foundation Collection, provide a sample of the numerous muscle-powered devices, large and small, that could be found worldwide and are considered of significant molinological interest.

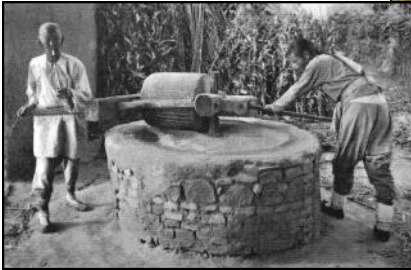
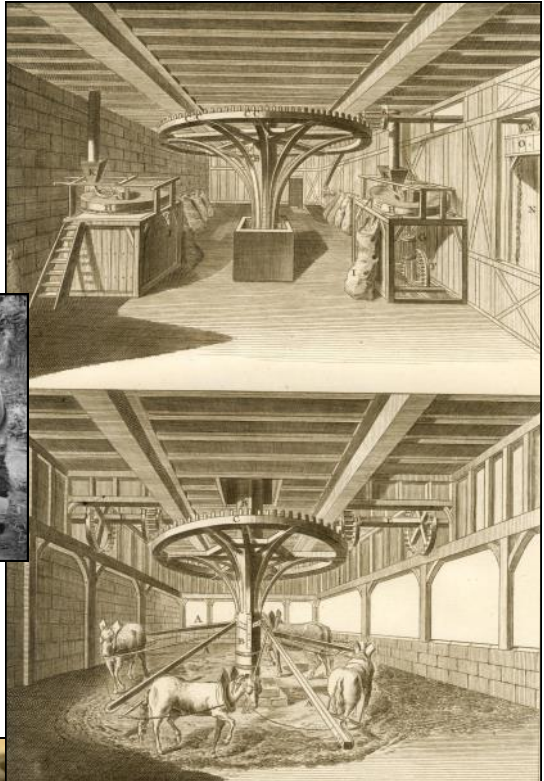


Above: An historical view of water raising in north Africa. The bovine-driven machinery moves earthenware pots in a long loop, scooping the water up from a well.

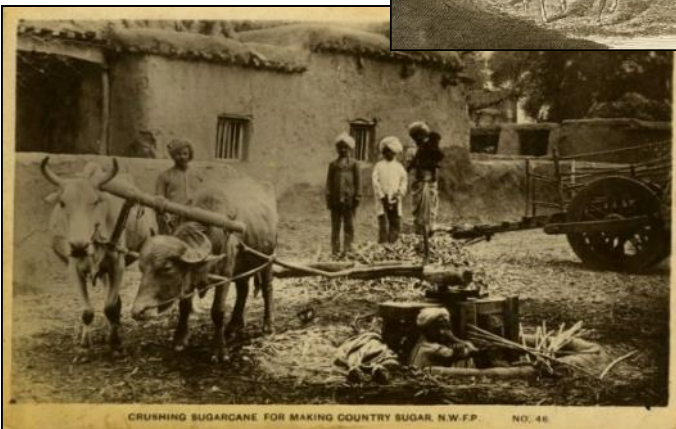
Above left: The younger generation manually turning a small device to pump water into the fields. In parts of China a yearly service is given in thanksgiving to the Dragon of Water in the neighbourhood.

Milling by muscle power—from the Mildred Cookson Collection (continued)

Right: The animal-powered corn mill is almost extinct in England. This rare engraving illustrates the setup of a large two-floored horse mill, the horses walking in a circle on the ground floor to drive millstones and other machinery on the floor above.



Above: Grinding beans by hand using an edge-runner stone on a North China farm: back-breaking work.



Left: An early postcard from Pakistan showing a rather dangerous contraption: the bullocks turn vertical rolls into which sugar cane is fed and crushed. The sugar cane feeder in the foreground is risking life and limb!

Milling by muscle power—from the Mildred Cookson Collection (continued)

Right: The muscles of four men and one animal are employed in this (clearly posed) photograph showing the operation of a horse-powered pug mill at a pottery in Sussex.



Above: This hand-coloured postcard from Africa shows two bullocks hitched to a long beam carrying an edge runner stone. Mortar was mixed in a narrow trough of very large diameter.

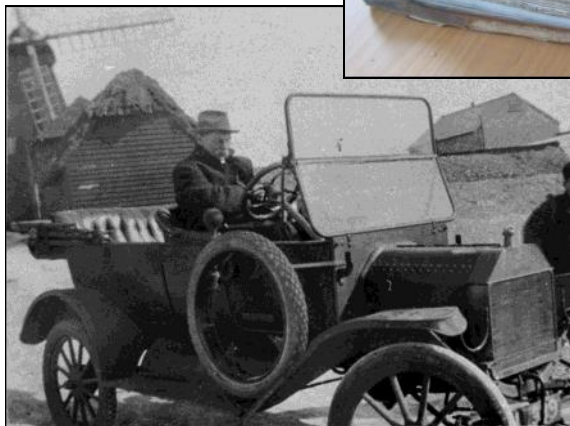
Left: A human watermill in China: Two workers operate what is both a tread wheel and a scoop wheel, raising water to irrigate paddy fields.

The Holman Family of Millwrights

The Holmans were a famous family firm of millwrights and agricultural engineers based in Canterbury. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, Holmans built and repaired many windmills and watermills in Kent's towns and villages. Details of some of their work were published as part of the Mills Archive's *Millers' Tales* project, completed in 2007.

We mentioned in the May 2012 issue of *Mill Memories* (issue 10, page 3), that Geoff Holman's family have asked us to complete the research work he was doing on his family's story.

Since then we have taken over his large collection of material, which includes a number of ledgers and account books. Some of these are in a sad state, so they will be professionally conserved.



Above right: One of the ledgers prior to conservation.

Above left: Millwright Harry Branford Holman, Sarre, 1920

Cleaning and rebinding will cost well over £1,000, but the detailed information therein will then be available for researchers.

If any researcher is interested in this important historical source, they should email Elizabeth Trout on info@millsarchive.com. News of our work on the collection will be published in future issues of *Mill Memories*.

Work on the Niall Roberts Collection

Luke Bonwick

Niall Roberts, born in 1922, was a mill enthusiast with a wide variety of research interests. I remember enjoying his distinctive, precisely-delivered lectures at the day meetings of the SPAB Mills Section in the late 1990s. Niall chose his words carefully and had the ability to cut to the essence of his subject.

As a diplomat, his professional life took him around the world. His travels resulted in a series of articles on mills around the globe that were published in various milling newsletters and journals, including the publications of The International Molinological Society (TIMS). Niall's international interest resulted in research into aspects of mills from Ireland to Thailand and the Philippines, and from the Caribbean via South Africa to China and Japan.

Millstones were a subject of particular interest, and Niall's command of French provided an advantage when researching the famous millstone quarries of the Paris basin.

Niall's collection was left to the Mills Archive on his death in 2010. Its numerous sub-collections contain background material for the articles he produced. One of these, published in the Proceedings of the 18th Mills Research Conference (2002) describes a 'forgotten' molinologist, Eugène Gaspard Marin. Niall had become aware of Marin's extensive collection of windmill photographs as a result of a chance meeting with his executrix in 1999, and had followed this up with a visit to the Science Museum Library to view Marin's collection. He discovered that Marin's unusual and intriguing method of mill classification was based on the Linnean system used in the biological sciences.

Niall's work is being catalogued by Guy Boocock (see page 7), who has already worked through over 50% of the material. He will go on to prepare web pages describing the contents of the various sub-collections and highlighting material of especial interest. Guy was successful in winning a place on the Vodafone World of Difference programme for the second time in 2012 (for 2013), and his colleague Liz Bartram also secured a place. We are delighted to have their input into Mills Archive activities and very grateful to Vodafone for funding them!



Niall Roberts speaking at the lectern

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 either new or surplus to our library collections, and can be ordered online at <http://shop.millsarchivetrust.org/>.

New to the Mills Archive Bookshop

Mapping the windmill by Bill Bignell Hard cover £20 + P&P
Published by the Charles Close Society for the study of Ordnance Survey Maps

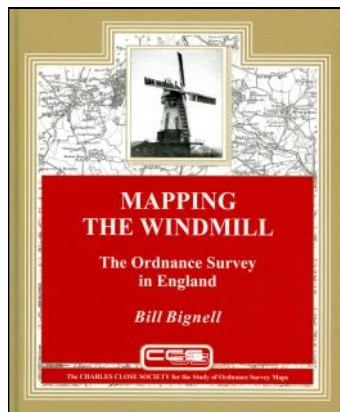
This is a profusely-illustrated in-depth study of cartographic depictions of windmill sites. In keeping with other publications by the Society, this monograph aims to shed light on an aspect of the affairs of the Ordnance Survey. It focuses on the effectiveness with which the windmill has been mapped by the OS throughout the 19th century and into the 20th.

Questions posed include:

- Could every known windmill expect to be depicted at every scale?
- Were windmills deleted from maps once they no longer existed?
- Was the status of each mill accurately modified on successive map editions?

One prominent molinologist describes the book as *"An excellent and readable treatment of what could be a difficult and esoteric subject, but one that is of vital importance to the understanding that must underpin mill research."*

Another mill researcher and author comments: *"A well-written book and an essential addition to one's mill library. It confirms that there are so many variables affecting how a mill is portrayed cartographically that it's dangerous to rely too much on the map alone when carrying out your research".*



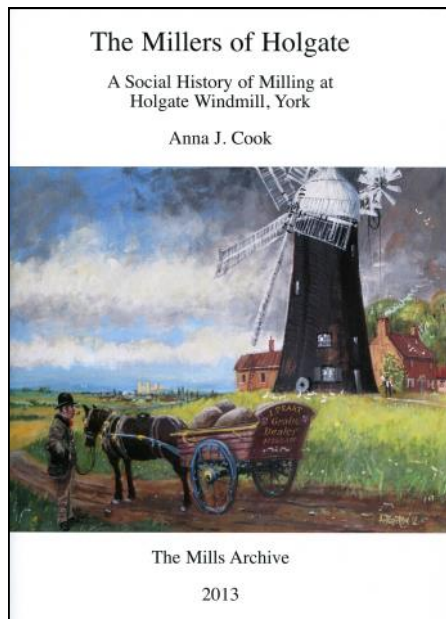
New to the Mills Archive Bookshop (continued)

The Millers of Holgate: A social history of Milling at Holgate windmill, York
By Anna J Cook. Soft cover, £5 + P&P, published by the Mills Archive Trust.

This detailed piece of research, the prize-winning entry in the first biennial Mills Archive Research Competition, held in 2012, has now been published as "The Mills Archive Research Publication No. 1". It consists of 36 pages of A4 with 17 monochrome photos and 6 maps bound in a handsome coloured cover.

The author, one of the team of volunteers who man the mill for visitors, has produced here a thoroughly researched guide to the mill and its history, illustrated by unfamiliar local pictorial material. The contents are organised chronologically, focusing on the owners of the mill, initially and for nearly a century, members of the Waud family, with a wealth of genealogical detail.

At appropriate points the machinery and milling processes are described. Less predictable topics include legislation, wages, the contribution of millers' wives, the place of bread in the diet, accidents, anecdotes relating to the millers' reputation for dishonesty, the mill as a landmark for hunting and the contemporary scene in 19th- century York.



The disposal of the mill by auction, the inescapable competition of roller mills, the frequent changes of ownership and tenancy, all leading inexorably to the final closure of this, the last working windmill in York in 1931: these are stages in the death throes of so many traditional mills in the latter years of the 19th century and are treated here, not as generalities but as specific instances.

The ample bibliography and references show the scope of the author's research and provide material for further exploration of the urban windmill as a phenomenon of the Industrial Revolution.

As a result of Anna's industry and enthusiasm, Holgate windmill deserves a surge in visitors and a place in future studies of the working buildings of the city of York.

Reviewed by Michael Harverson

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.

We strongly encourage you to 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
Free car park
Appointment necessary*

Please join the Friends of the Mills Archive



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

Mill Memories, every 6 months.

Two free invitations to exclusive Friends' events.

Internet privileges including:

- Discounts on purchases from our Internet shop
- 10 high-resolution images each year from the Mills Archive, emailed on request
- Waiving of copyright fees
- Much-reduced research fees

Additional benefits will be announced in *Mill Memories*.

*"Our Friends
are our future!"*



Check the Friends' Website www.millsarchivetrust.org

Internet shop

Friends' Trading Post

Mills Archive Library Catalogue

Mill Writing blog

News of Mills

Family History Searches

Featured Mills

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 _____			

