

Mill Memories

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Mills Archive



Issue 15

Autumn 2014

2

Changes at the Archive

3

Archiving Film

4

Old milling journals

9 New patron

12 Garden party pictures

16 Press cuttings database

Millwrighting books ~ p. 18

Changes at the Archive

Ron Cookson

New Trustees

Following on from the upgrading of our charitable status that we mentioned in the last issue of Mill Memories, we are pleased to announce the election of three new trustees to help in our drive "to be the national centre of excellence for learning, understanding and research on the historic uses of traditional power sources". They are:

- Dr Margaret Simons, a historian and information professional, who will help us to improve our focus on service provision, an important aspect of our aim to become one of the country's first archives to receive national accreditation.
- Dr Ashok Vaidya. With his background in IT and business mentoring, he will be helping us to address the key strategic issue of achieving long-term sustainability. Financial security is vital for archives as we preserve records of our nation's heritage for future generations.
- Mr Mike Evans, Head of Archive at the English Heritage Archive. His appointment will ensure that the needs of our archivist and the care of our collections are primary strategic issues for the Trust.

This combination of new expertise, added to our current trustee body's long involvement in the mill world, greatly strengthens our charity and gives us the platform to gain wider recognition of our vision and to achieve financial sustainability.



New Logo

As we are developing our new website, it became clear that our old logo would not appear properly in small devices such as smart phones. In addition, it has been criticised for seeming to suggest that we are solely a windmill archive. We have therefore designed a more abstract and more flexible logo, which works well on all sizes of website and reflects our interest in both wind- and water-power. This new logo will also be used on any new printed material, which our new charity number will oblige us to create. The logo is proudly displayed on our front cover (did you notice?).

Mill Memories is edited by Nathanael Hodge. Cover photograph by Liz Bartram

Archiving Film

David H Jones

This article is based on a talk given by David H Jones at the SPAB meeting in London on the 8th March 2014.



Archives exist to ensure the survival of historical records, and one form of historical record is film. Most archives are designed to handle documents and photographs, which means paper. Film poses a problem for them, for its storage and conservation demands special expertise and facilities which most archives lack because they never acquire enough of it to justify providing either.

Fortunately the problem was recognised long ago and some special film archives were set up such as the National Film Archive and similar ones in Denmark, France and elsewhere. Until fairly recently most of them concentrated on the commercial cinema, but in Britain since 1976 more than a dozen regional film archives have been established, together with a few subject-based collections.

The policy of the Mills Archive is to pass any films of mills it receives to the appropriate regional film archive. This does mean dispersing material around the country, but this is not very serious for records are generated in the process of depositing them, so when access to them is needed they can easily be found.

Anyone who has film of mills should remember to include them with whatever else they deposit, whatever its age, condition or format. The facilities needed to restore it and convert it to a more modern format exist, so if it shows mills, deposit it!

Old Milling Journals

Mildred Cookson



The Miller is probably the oldest milling magazine that comes to mind when researchers are seeking out mill-related articles from the past. As the advert shows it was published in two forms, the Technical Issue which came out the first Monday of every month and what was called the Market Issue, published every Monday evening. The first issue came out in 1875, published at their premises in the well-known "Mark Iane" area of London, where most of the millwrighting furnishers were established.

Each issue contains many articles on individual mills, millers, machinery, trade fairs, and it is especially known for the wonderful adverts in each issue. The engravings of mills and machinery as well as layouts of mills are also excellent.

There is an index at the start of each issue with a section near the front which lists windand watermills for sale, and adverts for mills wanting millers, stone dressers and roller men. Also in every issue are grain and flour trade reviews, corn trade details from around the world, and much more. The section on questions sent in is also very interesting and varies enormously, from millers asking 'how do I get the best from my millstones for grinding barley?' to asking for help with water rights. The following issues publish the replies, often over several weeks with various people contributing.

Each issue contains information on traditional mills, but after 1900 it tended to concentrate on roller milling. Nevertheless, there are quite a lot of articles and letters referring to millstone dressing and related items of stone milling in the later issues. There are illustrated articles on many of the firms manufacturing milling machinery, and many

Old Milling Journals (continued)



Advertisement by John Fiechter & Sons from The Miller

specific adverts on roller flour mill machinery. These include machines made by Henry Simon, ER and F Turner, Joseph Armfield, Thomas Robinson, Whitmore & Binyon and Brian Corcoran, as well as many more that perhaps are not so familiar, such as Tattersalls, Hopkinson's of Retford, and Lund and Hind of Preston, Lancashire. Millstone makers, such as Hughes of Dover Street, RG Hanley, Sutcliffes, and Davies & Sneade, advertise in every issue.

There are several articles on the Successful Country Mill: those watermills that converted, either in part or wholly, to roller flour milling in the 1890s. There are write ups of many British and Irish roller flour mills giving the history of the owners and mill, the set-up of each floor and details of motive power along with exterior and interior engravings.

As this was printed on news print quality paper, it is fast turning brown and starting in some cases to crumble. We need to get these magazines digitised before it is too late!

Page 6

Old Milling Journals (continued)

Milling is perhaps the second most well known milling magazine to have been published. It has similarities to *The Miller* but also differences.

It was first published a little later than The Miller, in 1891. Although it still survives the magazine has now changed its name. It was printed on a heavier shiny paper, and is in a slightly larger format than The Miller. It concentrated almost entirely on roller flour milling. There are, however, many full page photographs of traditional mills, and once again many adverts. The layout starts with notes from the counties for the week which includes the weather, English wheat, fires, handling of grain etc., along with a lovely photograph of a mill or mill related subject in that particular edition.

As an example, the photograph included in the edition March 4th 1899 is entitled, "One of the Minnows of the Trade". This was the water mill belonging and run by Mr Richard Cussons of Kirby



Front cover from July 1906

Moorside. A full description of the mill includes details of two pairs of French stones and one pair of grey stones with a barley mill and wire cylinder. The workings and machinery are fully described, along with the miller's view on competing with roller milling.

Milling declined and seemed lost to the industry until rescued and relaunched by Perendale Publishers as *Grain & Feed Milling Technology*. Covering new technology in the flour milling industry, the new owners want to link back to their roots in flour milling and have formed a strong relationship with the Mills Archive (see p 9).

Old Milling Journals (continued)



The Weekly Northwestern Miller was a milling journal from the USA. It concentrated more on the roller flour milling side than traditional milling. The front covers are particularly attractive as seen here (above right). Adverts are included, but not on the same scale as the British magazines. The Archive already holds a lot of early copies, seen here being scanned by Michael, one of our volunteers (above).

As we are starting on our Roller Flour Mill project, we have been offered, and accepted, an almost complete run of the magazine, from 1929-1958. All we have to do now is find room for the almost 5 metres in length that we need to store them!







Above: The magazines waiting for collection.

Left: Arriving at the Archive.

Why I am a volunteer

Cara Sheldrake



I spend a lot of my daily life in an active and physical job working behind a real ale bar but after finishing my PhD in Classics I spent some time looking for something a bit extra and different to occupy my mind. The idea of volunteering at the Mills Archive came up almost entirely by chance but I knew after coming to a meeting for the first time that it was the right opportunity for me to learn lots of new things. My first tasks at the Archive were broadly administrative, but I was quickly given the opportunity to help to digitise part of the Holman collection and then Rex Wailes' Essex photographs and help

preserve images of long-demolished windmills and machinery in order to make them more accessible.

Although I have no millers in the immediate family or background in industrial archaeology I was drawn both to the social role of an individual mill in its community and to the ways that people study mills. Part of my doctoral research included looking into the ways that enthusiasts included knowledge from different academic fields in their analyses of the history of mining and why amateurs proffered impassioned theories to the general public. So, as well as learning names for different wheels and gears, volunteering has led me to think about the way that people research mills and how that influences both the way collections are created and how they are accessed. I hope that this will not only give me more scope for research but also direct my current project of helping to create a new cataloguing system for the library.

PS. I have recently discovered 'dog-mills' (categorised under *Other Power Sources*) and am definitely considering whether my elderly Labrador is up for the challenge..



Perendale become an Archive Patron

Liz Bartram



We are delighted to announce that the publishers of the Grain & Feed Milling Technology (GFMT) magazine – Perendale Publishers – have joined us as an Archive Patron.

The role of Archive Patron is reserved for those organisations and individuals who wish to

make a significant difference to our charity both financially and strategically by getting involved in our projects and activities. GFMT, which shares this accolade with fellow Archive Patron the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings Mills Section, is the successor of the longrunning Milling publication, which began in 1891.

With their connection to this historical publication documenting our milling heritage, we are very pleased to be associated with them.

They have an active website and blog, which you can explore at www.gfmt.co.uk.



An early edition of Milling from our library and the latest edition of Grain & Feed Milling Technology

Heritage Partner Scheme

The Archive recently saw the introduction of a new Friends scheme for organisations: the Heritage Partnership.

As we had hoped, the new scheme is proving very popular, particularly among mills looking to access archiving advice and increased publicity. New Heritage Partners include Eling Tide Mill in Hampshire, Burwell and Wicken Windmills in Cambridgeshire and Marsh Mill at Thornton.

Our services, such as advice on archiving, training workshops and privileges including generous copyright fee reductions and publicity on our website, would be of benefit to a number of mills around the UK. We would welcome any suggestions as to mills that might be interested, or alternatively if you are connected to a mill then please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing me at Liz.Bartram@millsarchive.org.

The Founders' Room

As our library has become busier, we needed a more private venue for presentations, workshops and other meetings, and decided to combine this with recognising the contributions of our four Founders, who donated or willed their collections to the Archive when we set up.

We took over a very rundown office in our Watlington House headquarters at in November 2013 and decided the redecoration should reflect the age and period of the house itself. We then appointed a local craftsman. Mark Ripley, to build the furniture out of oak. We had new shutters made, installed new lighting and a large television screen to show presentations and allow access to the internet. A new carpet and cream leather chairs completed the room. Over the original fireplace is a portrait by David Neaves, our Treasurer, of Helen Major whose generous legacy made all this possible. Our Founders' Room will now reflect the four Foundation Collections and will be used for Trustee meetings and training workshops our (opposite) as well as being available also for our Corporate Friends and Archive Patrons to use.

Below: The room with tables and display cabinets installed.





Above: The Founders' Room newly decorated and with the carpet down, before the addition of furniture.

Below: The bookcase fronts going in.



New training workshop: Caring for your Collection

As part of our new services for Heritage Partners, we will be running our first training workshop on *Caring for your Collection* later this year.

Scheduled for November 2014, this workshop will be of benefit to any organisation that has archival material such as photos and documents of their own, and would like ideas about how to store them and record them for future reference.

The workshop will feature different speakers with their own expertise and will be enjoyable and accessible to all. Heritage Partners receive one free delegate place per course per year, and all delegates will receive high-quality training materials to take away with them to refer to as needed.

If you are an existing Heritage Partner, or are connected to an organisation that might benefit from this workshop, please register your interest by contacting me at Liz.Bartram@millsarchive.org and I will send you more information in due course.



New Corporate Friends



New Corporate Friend eWaterpower has started generously supporting our cause. Director Brendan Barrow exhibited at both garden parties with a fascinating working model of an Archimedean Screw

Turbine that attracted a lot of attention. eWaterpower specialises in providing electricity through waterpower throughout the UK and France and have helped a number of watermills to do so. You can read more on their website at www.ewaterpower.com.

Owlsworth IJP has also kindly joined us as a Corporate Friend. Their philosophy is to provide a sympathetic construction service for period properties and historic structures, including mills. See www.owlsworthijp.co.uk for more information.

If you would like to receive our Corporate Friendship brochure, please get in touch with Liz Bartram at Liz.Bartram@millsarchive.org.

◇ Owlsworth IJP

Page 12

Garden Parties

This year we hosted two summer garden parties for our Friends, a chance for them to meet up and see the results of their support. As the photos and quotes on the following pages show the events were well attended and enjoyed by all who came.





Congratulations to you, Mildred and the team. Saturday was a great success. Those who came must have been very impressed. All the displays were looking most attractive, informative and very professional.

Alan Stoyel

Were we impressed??!! Lois and I loved our visit - we thought the building was "to die for" - but above all we were so impressed by the progress you all have made in developing such a huge archive in such a professional way - and in such a short time! As I said on the day... well done to all involved.

Hugh Pihlens



Garden parties (continued)



Garden parties (continued)



The Founders' room is splendid and the show there today was exciting. We have some real treasures. Also, it was good to be shown round the show by Nathanael. He and Liz and Guy are other real treasures.



Michael Harverson



Garden parties (continued)





Many thanks to the team for organising yet another terrific gathering at the Mills Archive. It's always nice to see how the Archive has developed since I last visited, and I never cease to be amazed by the wonderful work that's been done and what has been achieved. As ever, it was lovely to see all the familiar faces (and some unfamiliar ones, too!) and have a natter, over a rather splendid lunch, about what everyone has been up to and the recent contributions they've made to our milling heritage. It was a truly brilliant day (despite the weather) and I can't wait until the next one!

James Butson



Page 16

Press Cuttings Database

Sarra Sheikh



For the past 12 weeks Sarra Sheikh, an intern on Reading University's summer internship scheme has been working at the Mills Archive. Her valuable contribution has been the development of an online mill press cuttings database, as a result of which she has been the first person to use our new online catalogue software, 'AtoM'. Here she describes what she has learned.

When I first applied for the internship at the Mills Archive, I was interested in being a part of the preservation of history. That is still a big part of my work, but using AtoM has made me appreciate the importance of proper recording of information.

I work primarily with press cuttings about mills, but I have realised that these stories are not just about the mills. They are also about the people who work them, who live in them, who restore them, and who love them. I have come to see the mill not only as an excellent example of industrial innovation, but as a crux for community life.

When I first began working here, I had to sort through cuttings, discarding what I considered unimportant and filing away what I thought was useful information. In the beginning, I was torn between trying to pare down a huge mass of information and throwing away something important. I would think to myself: "Surely if somebody bothered to write a story about it, it must be of use to someone," However, I quickly learned the difference between quality information that would help researchers



One of the cuttings as it appears on the catalogue

and other pieces that were just gumming up the works.

That is where AtoM comes in. The new catalogue we are using at the Mills Archive is perhaps the most exciting part of my work. It is sleek and streamlined, and manages to organise hundreds of cuttings in an easily accessible manner. At first, it was all about

Press Cuttings Database (continued)



The 'show all' option allows users to scroll through thumbnails of all the cuttings

data entry, but after learning how to add access points and mill location markers, I realised just how much easier it would be for future researchers to get to the information they needed. I am still learning so much as I continue to use this amazing facility, and I look forward to being able to continuously improve the quality of information we can make available to people who use our services.

Since my work with AtoM is part of a twelve-week internship, I realise that although I may be the first to use it, I have barely scratched the surface of all the archive material that will eventually be available to access through it. For all the future cataloguers who might one day work on AtoM, I hope the experience is as joyful and enlightening for you as it has been for me.

Bookshelf: Millwrighting books

Elizabeth Trout

One of my most enjoyable roles as Information Manager is to manage the Library; I am a Librarian by profession. Little known but very important is our collection of books published in the 18th and 19th centuries.

For anyone interested in the history of mills and milling they describe in detail the theories of physical science that underpinned the practice of milling and millwrighting. I find the millwrighting books particularly fascinating as I once considered engineering as a career - but that's another story.

The earliest were published between 1727 and 1736 in Amsterdam. They are the largest books in the Library with substance and grandeur, designed to impress potential customers and the high standard of the millwright's work. They contain finely detailed cross-sectional drawings of Dutch and Flemish mills and mill machinery.



Front pages of the Theatrum Machinarium Universale of Groot Algemeen Moolen-boek

Millwrighting books (continued)



Millwrights using a capstan to hoist mill machinery - illustration from the Moolen-boek

During the 18th and 19th centuries many theories of mechanics and hydraulics were tested by millwrights, with the results tabulated to make calculations easier on location. Working millwrights used pocket-sized technical manuals written to help them with the complicated calculations using theoretical equations and graduated tables of scaled results.

The most well-known books are by John Smeaton, Oliver Evans and William Fairbairn. Smeaton wrote a series of experimental papers on the uses of wind and water power. He presented these to the Royal Society between 1756 and 1782 with detailed drawings to illustrate the lectures. Oliver Evans was a man before his time whose continuous mechanical milling process revolutionised flour milling in America. 15 editions of his book outlining theory in practice were published between 1795 and 1860, three editions before his death in 1819. It became the most important book for the American milling trade. In 1861, Fairbairn took all these theories further and applied his knowledge of mechanics to turbines, steam engines and boilers.

In between Smeaton/Evans and Fairbairn, some smaller pocket-sized books were written by John Nicholson in 1830, William Templeton, 1832, and an American author, William Carter Hughes c1850. Nicholson's book was originally a chapter in his book "Operative Mechanics". He was particularly interested in the mechanics of gearing, animal power, water and wind power. Carter Hughes was specifically interested in the mechanics of grinding and the action of millstones. Templeton's book was wider in scope to facilitate "the daily calculations of millwrights, engineers, iron-founders and mechanics".

Next time you visit the Mills Archive, I will be pleased to show you these gems of our Library.

Research Prize awarded

We were pleased to announce recently that the winner of our 2014 Mills Archive Research Prize was Edwin Trout for his work entitled "Traditional Milling Technology in the English Cement Industry 1796-1899". The full illustrated paper will be published as the third issue in our Research Publication series, and details will be announced in the next issue of Mill Memories.



Winner Edwin Trout (centre) with members of the research management board Alan Stoyel (left) and Michael Harverson (right)

New Publication

We are also proud to publish Michael Harverson's further book on the drawings of Stephen Buckland, as the second of our Research Publications, concentrating on English mills and featuring contributions from several Mills Archive workers. Retailing at a price of £10, this 68 page book is free on request to Friends of the Mills Archive. Please email friends@millsarchive.org if you would like to claim your copy. Alternatively complete and return the enclosed form and we will send you one by return.



Issue 15

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 free car parking.



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 enquiries@millsarchive.org 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

"Our Friends are our future!"



"Help us to save the memories"



Our Friends are the lifeblood of the Archive. Their support helps to preserve vulnerable collections that would otherwise be at risk of being lost forever. We safeguard the memories for generations to come and provide all these services free to the general public. Without regular public support, we could not do this. Such support is a major influence on grant-giving bodies such as The Heritage Lottery Fund which likes its grants to 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.

As an individual, the best way to support us as a Friend is to set up a standing order for £5 per month or more, and we would ask you to complete and return the standing order form opposite. You may donate annually if you prefer, and single donations are always very welcome. You can also donate by cheque or join online at http://tinyurl.com/nea2uub

Key Benefits for Individual Friends

Mill Memories every six months Invitations to exclusive Friends' events. Discounts on purchases from our online bookshop Free high-resolution images Waiving of copyright fees Much-reduced research fees Read more on these benefits in the "Friends' Services" section of

Read more on these benefits in the "Friends' Services" section of our website. New and additional benefits will be announced in Mill Memories, so watch this space!

Visit our Website

www.millsarchive.org

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Issue 15

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 to be put on the *Mill Memories* mailing list (small donation appreciated) **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	Pos	tcode	
Please Pay CAF BANK Ltd,	West Malling 40-52-40 Account No	o 00025146	
Credit THE MILLS ARCHIVE TRUST			
The Sum of £ (a	mount 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			
	P	Postcode	



The Friends of The Mills Archive

Part of The Mills Archive Trust Registered Charity no 1155828 Watlington House 44 Watlington Street Reading, RG1 4RJ United Kingdom

The Friends of The Mills Archive are dedicated to aiding 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.

As a Friend you are supporting the care and public access to 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 22) 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@millsarchive.org

Held over to the next issue

Millwrights: Past and Present

The role of the millwright is pivotal in keeping our few mills we have left in good order, whether working or just watertight and stable. At The Mills Archive we now have numerous collections from millwrights around the country and abroad, as well as many old and modern photos of millwrights at work. The next issue of Mill Memories will explore our collection and bring together a sample of what we hold on this important area.



