



Mill Memories

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Mills Archive

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Spring 2016

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New Heritage Partners and Corporate Friends

Liz Bartram

Support for the Archive remains strong and continues to grow, not just from generous individuals looking to support a good cause – for which we are most grateful – but also from other organisations. Our latest Heritage Partners and Corporate Friends include mills and a publisher of mill-related books.



REXW-24588

Heritage Partners

Union Mill

Standing at the highest point overlooking the historic Wealden town of Cranbrook in Kent and maintained in working order, this Grade 1 Listed Building is the tallest surviving smock mill in the British Isles. Managed by volunteers of the Cranbrook Windmill Association, the windmill has an active website and you can find out more about its history and opening times there : www.unionmill.org.uk

East Knoyle Mill

We are also delighted to be supported by the owners of East Knoyle Mill, a tower mill in Wiltshire. This mill is privately owned and therefore it is not open to the public, but you can still read more about the mill on our website by searching for East Knoyle.



HIESS-0942

Corporate Friends

House Mill

House Mill is a Grade I listed building on the River Lea in Bromley-by-Bow, London and is a tide mill. The House Mill remains the largest tidal mill left standing in Britain although the water wheels no longer turn.



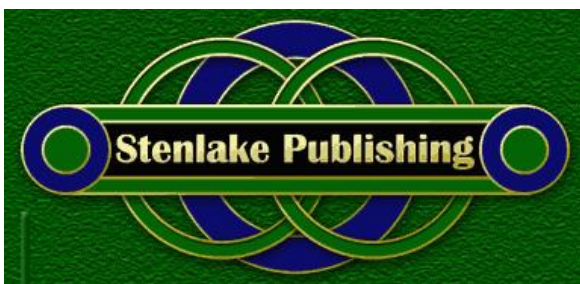
The River Lea Tidal Mill Trust owns the House Mill and the Miller's House buildings, which are used for educational projects and as conference spaces. The Mill is also open to the public at specified times – to find out more about this mill, its history and opportunities for visitors, visit their impressive website: www.housemill.org.uk

Photo copyright House Mill

Stenlake Publishing Ltd

In addition to the valuable support from the aforementioned mills, we are grateful for the support of Stenlake Publishing, one of our newest Corporate Friends.

Stenlake Publishing specialises in a number of subject areas. Their principal specialty is quality books of local interest highly illustrated with old photographs, usually accompanied by an informative text. They have published a variety of successful mill-related books,



and also maintain a substantial list of industrial and transport-related titles – railways, canals, road transport, coastal shipping, mining, and aviation. These titles range across Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, England, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland.

We are proud to sell some of their titles on our bookshop, and you can also visit their website directly for more information for the full range of titles: stenlake.co.uk

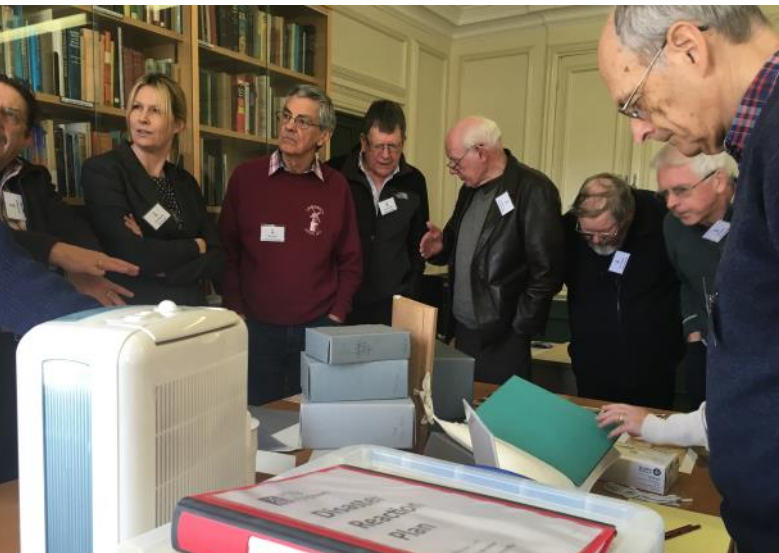
Both House Mill and Cranbrook Windmill were recently represented at one of our archiving training workshops, which we run for our Heritage Partners and Corporate Friends. Turn the page to read more about our recent workshop on “Caring for your Collection”.



Training Workshop

Liz Bartram

We recently ran one of our training workshops called “Caring for your Collection”. This workshop was attended by people from a number of mills, who were looking for advice and the chance to build their own links in the mill world and share ideas.



*Left:
Participants
examine archival
packaging and other
items and
equipment used to
care for archives
during the morning
session on
preservation.*

Our Archivist Nathanael discussed how to organise and catalogue images and documents. His clip from the Lord of the Rings film showing Gandalf hunting for information in an archive – and how not to handle vulnerable images and documents – proved popular!

Mildred, a Trustee and owner of a Foundation Collection, joined Nathanael and both talked about what can be done to preserve vulnerable material through safe storage and handling (see p. 18 for more details). In the afternoon we covered digitisation and how we can help mills to make their own archives available to the public online through hosting on our AtoM cataloguing software.

The participants left with a 55-page reference guide for their mill and free samples of archival packaging. They gained a list of new contacts within the mill community, and felt equipped to continue to share ideas between their different mills as well as within their own teams.

If you would like to find out more about our training workshops, please contact me at friends@millsarchive.org If a mill or organisation is a Heritage Partner or Corporate Friend, we offer free places on our workshops. To find out more about these supporter schemes please get in touch or explore our website: millsarchive.org/support



Garden Party

Liz Bartram

You should have already heard that we are hosting a summer garden party this year and we hope that you might like to attend. Late bookings are welcome.



This garden party is our way of saying thank you to our Friends and supporters and will feature a selection of exhibitions that will showcase some particularly interesting parts of our collections. We will also be displaying elements of a new project, *From Quern to Computer*, in which we will tell the story of flour milling from its ancient origins in 6,000 BC and up to the present day. The *Great British Mill Race* discussed on page 15 forms part of this project

If you have already confirmed your attendance at the garden party then thank you, but if not and you would like to come, please could you email me at friends@millsarchive.org and provide the following information:

- Your name
- Your postcode
- Will you be travelling here by car?
- Number and names of guests you would like to bring
- Dietary requirements e.g. vegetarian

Thank you and we hope to see you there.





Nuts and Bolters

Liz Bartram



Supported by

The National Lottery®

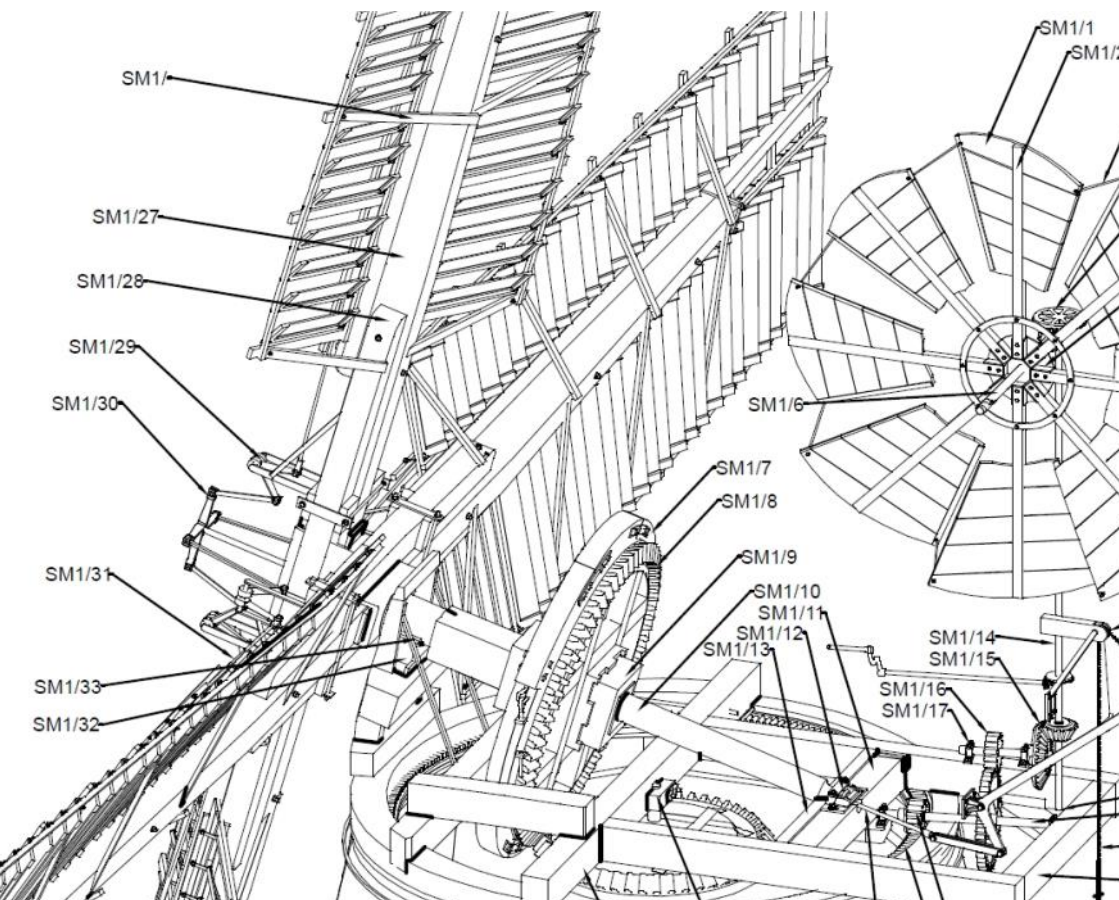
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



We are delighted to announce that we have received £8,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a new project jointly entered into with the Mills Research Group!

During the project – *Nuts & Bolters* – we will create a new illustrated glossary of mill terms that will be freely available to all. Enhanced and explained by the talented illustrations of John Brandrick of the Mills Research Group, we will also be looking for suggestions of mill terms including those that show dialectal and regional differences. You will also be able to submit your own photos of mill parts.

So watch this space as there will be more to come during the next year!



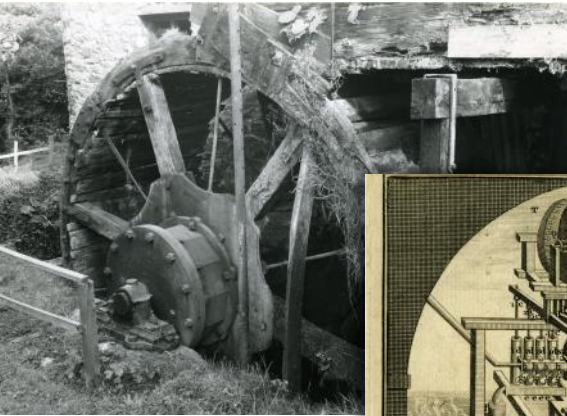


Waterwheels

Mildred Cookson

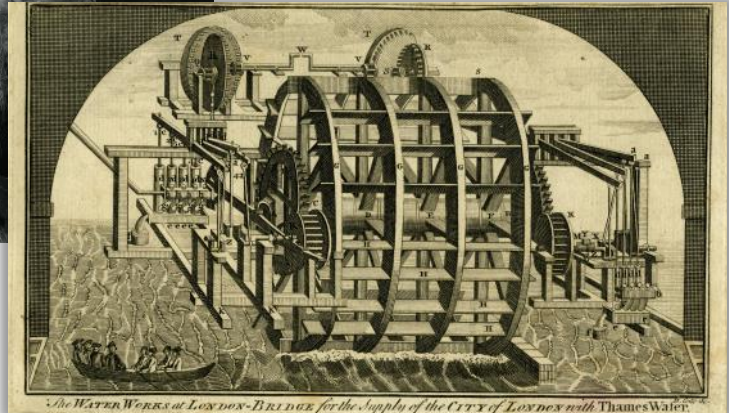
Waterwheels vary in shape and size, from standard designs to individual homemade ones. The Archive holds many images of waterwheels in both the UK and the rest of the world.

Waterwheels are dependent on a good water supply; once harnessed the wheel could power many different processes, from the large cotton and woollen mills, to the small farm wheels powering threshing machines and millstones in barns. Then there are the



EMGC04/18-14

Below: The Ken Major Collection contains images of the waterworks at London Bridge for supplying the city of London with water from the River Thames.



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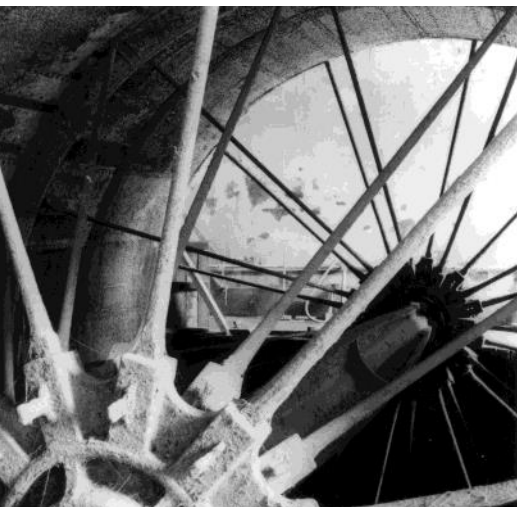
Above: Forge wheels powering tilt hammers are easily identified by the large diameter shaft on which the wheel is fixed.

scoop wheels of the drainage mills of the fens of Cambridge and Norfolk marshes, and pumping wheels for use on farms and in mines. Gunpowder mills, paper mills, snuff mills, bobbin making and saw mills all took advantage of water power.



Early horizontal wheels can still be seen on the Shetlands and Orkneys as well as in Ireland. They can be made entirely from one piece of wood or made from metal.

Left: A wooden horizontal wheel from Fontão, Portugal. Photo Mildred Cookson



JSPB-1127585

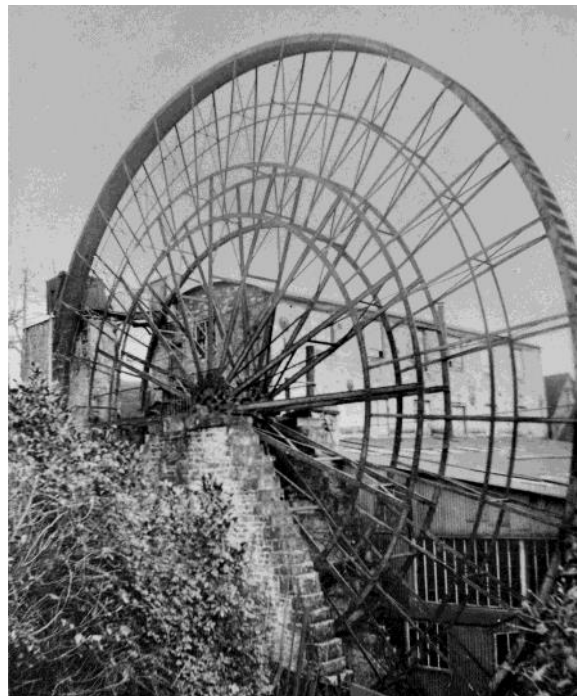
Above: Suspension wheel at Glasshouses Mill, Bishopside, Yorkshire.

Right: The Alan Stoyel collection has many excellent photographs of the different types of wheel including an 18 metre pitch back wheel at the Flax and Iron Foundry, Bourton.

John Smeaton (1724-1792) was instrumental in working out the differences and benefits of overshot versus undershot water wheels. The Scottish engineer, William Fairbairn (1789-1874) in 1817 launched a mill-machinery business with James Lillie, which rapidly secured a good reputation, with the improvements in mill-work and water-wheels. He was particularly noted for his work on the suspension wheel.

The very early wheels would have been all of wood, usually with an oak shaft; the wheel itself would have an oak rim and starts (to hold the paddles in place) and elm paddles. As wooden wheels do

Right: An all wooden wheel at Mapledurham under repair.



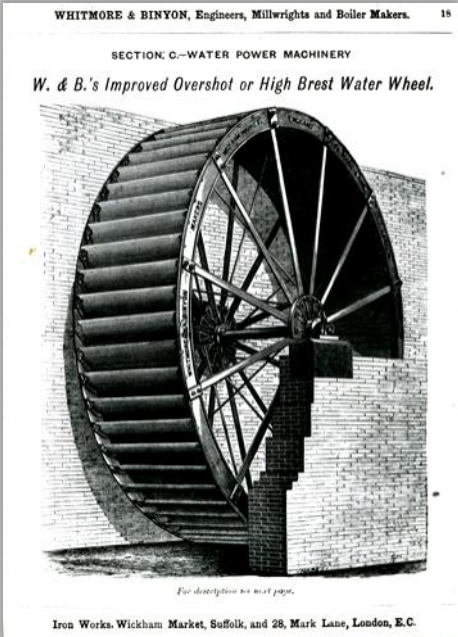
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Left: Iron wheels were designed and manufactured by milling engineers such as Whitmore & Binyon of which the Archive has many drawings from the Peter Dolman collection.

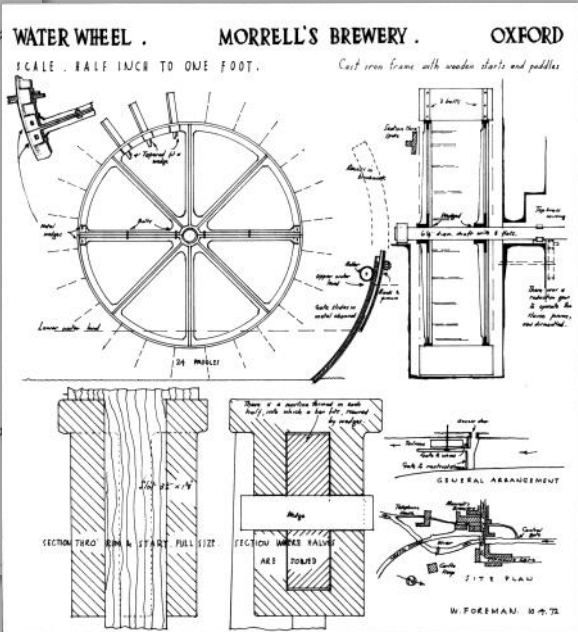
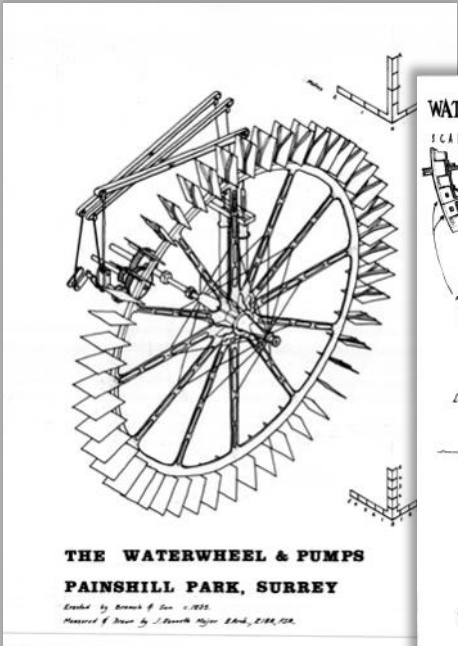
not last, gradually ironwork became more commonly used and a wooden shaft would sometimes be replaced with a cast one as a long term solution.

Drawings can provide a researcher with information that would otherwise not be available, as the wheel may very well have gone years ago or be in a derelict state. The Archive holds drawings by millwrights Christopher Wallis and Derek Ogden, by milling engineers Joseph Armfield of Ringwood and the Bodley Foundry, and by individuals such as Ken Major, Wilf Foreman and Martin Watts.

Below left: Ken Major drawing.

Below: Wilfred Foreman drawing.

JKMG-DRW-33-W4-001



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One Hundred and Twenty Five Years Ago...

Mildred Cookson

As we mentioned in Issue 15, the Journal *Milling* was launched in 1891 as a classier journal with a slightly larger format than *The Miller*. The publisher took pains with its style and typeface and it had a greater feeling of permanence. Each issue started with notes

from the English counties for the week, along with weather reports and items on English wheat, fires, handling of grain etc. Other topics included the grain market round the world with prices of wheat and other cereals, machinery adverts for roller mills, elevators, silos and profiles of eminent millers.

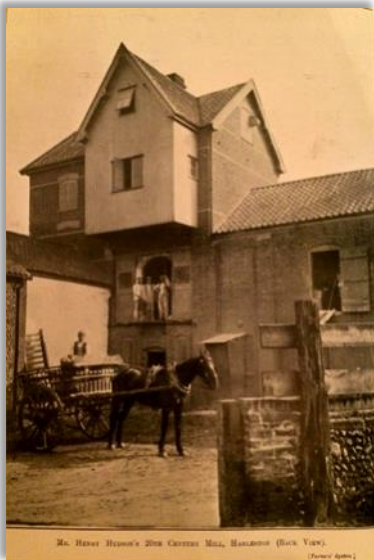
Left: The typeface and presentation of Volume 10.

Below: Mr Hudson's Mill Harleston (Turner's System).



Milling concentrated almost entirely on roller flour milling and rapidly became a household name to those connected to the production of grains and those who milled them. From the very first magazine there were items discussing matters that are still relevant today. Soon after launch, it was printed on heavy shiny paper, much better than most of the trade press of that time. This makes it well worthwhile looking through copies from this time, as the paper quality allowed the reproduction of lovely photographs of the mills or mill-related subjects that were covered in that particular issue.

Unlike the other Victorian milling journals, *The Northwestern Miller* (ceased in 1973) and *The Miller* (ceased in 1950), *Milling* did not totally vanish in the second half of the twentieth century. It did, however, endure a very choppy commercial period before being rescued by Roger Gilbert. Roger and his company





Perendale Publishers Ltd, renamed the publication *Grain & Feed Milling Technology* and revitalised it with a readership in excess of 64,000 in 132 countries, translated into various languages including Spanish, Turkish and Arabic.

In January 2015, Perendale renamed the monthly publication *Milling & Grain*, highlighting their historical links, and are now celebrating 125 years of a publication that first appeared in June 1891. Perendale's commitment to our milling heritage is underscored by their support for us as an Archive Patron and by their continuing interest in our work. Once again we will be pleased to welcome Roger and the Perendale team to our Garden Party in June.

As part of our close collaboration I have been writing for *Milling and Grain* a series of articles based on milling journals of the past. These are accompanying our publicity campaign to set up the World's First Roller Flour Mill Archive and Library. If you would like to know more please email me at mills@millsarchive.org

To mark the 125th anniversary of this important publication we will send you a free copy of *Milling and Grain* in return for two large 1st class stamps to cover the p&p cost.



Left: The first issue under the new name Milling and Grain.



Right: One of Mildred's series of articles in Milling and Grain.



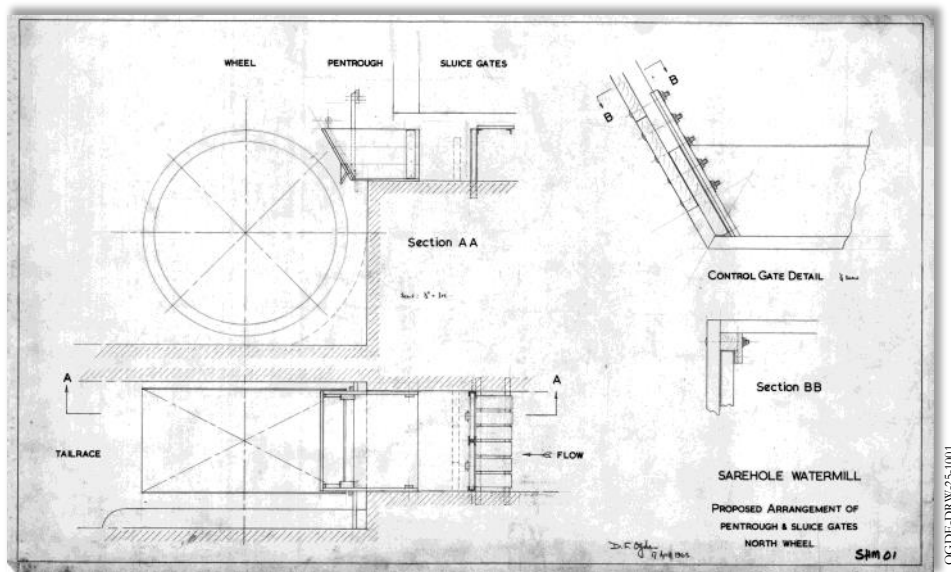
The Derek Ogden Collection

Mildred Cookson

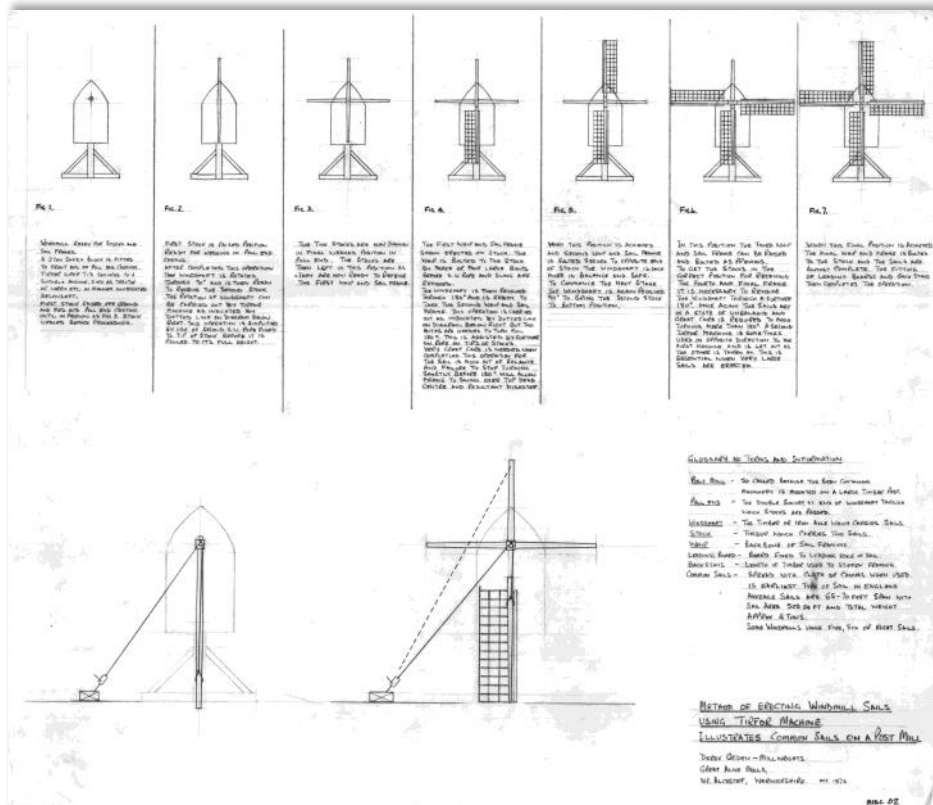
Derek Ogden is a traditional millwright in the real sense of the word. His interest in mills started when he saw his first windmill in south Birmingham at Trittiford in 1945 just at the end of WWII. This spurred his interest into finding more of these beautiful machines.

He was an avid cyclist, like other mill people at that time, and went to Tysoe in Warwickshire. In 1949 he bought a new Triumph motorcycle and with his grandfather went back to Tysoe mill. Once there his grandfather fell in love with the mill and as it was so sad and neglected asked if they might help to repair it together. They went to see the owner, the 6th Marquess of Northampton and in due course got permission to start work on the mill.

Derek's work there caught the attention of Monica Dance, Secretary of the SPAB who asked him to get in touch with Rex Wailes and join the SPAB. With Rex, he visited Chesterton windmill. By 1961 he was so involved with wind and watermills for SPAB that he found it difficult to do his day job! He resolved the situation by taking on the repair of Sarehole Watermill for the City of Birmingham and in 1965 he became a professional millwright.



Above: Proposed arrangement of pentrough and sluice gates for the north wheel, Sarehole Watermill. Derek Ogden drawing from 1965.



Method of erecting windmill sails using Tirfor machine. Derek Ogden drawing from 1973.

There was never any shortage of work once started and he was approached by many other mill owners for help. So he would have a good working base he bought Great Alne Watermill in 1967 and from then on there was no going back. Derek's work included a lot of holding operations as money was not available as today from grant giving bodies.

In 1973 Derek received a phone call from the USA asking if he would meet the owner of Flowerdew Hundred Plantation in Virginia. This ended with Derek going to America in 1974 to build an English post mill. He stayed on in Virginia and tells me that he still misses the English weather, and Chesterton and Tysoe windmills.

Back in 2001 when we were considering setting up the Mills Archive, he offered us his material, as he was concerned for the future of his life's work. This was our first promise of millwrighting files and drawings and I said we would be delighted to take these into safe custody. With every mill Derek was asked to work on he would do his own drawings for the repair or replacement parts of the mill, and kept a file on each with great detail. This amounted to over 200 files, most with drawings.



His files on UK mills eventually got through customs in a crate and made their way to the Archive, and a few years later the US files followed. More than 100 digital images are featured in our catalogue entry at <http://catalogue.millsarchive.org/derek-ogden-collection>. As well as the files there are reports, correspondence and photographs as well as other documents relating to UK millwrighting projects between 1965 and 1980. Further material including more USA files and drawings plus 100 photograph albums are still to come.

Derek says he is very happy to know it is all safe with us and hopes it was worth waiting for! He says he now knows they are in good hands, although he will soon have nothing but fond memories to look back on. Of course we keep Derek up to date with the progress on his collection with images such as the one below of Beth working on his files.

Although he is quite modest about the value of his records, I think he underestimates their interest and importance. In a time when we are going electronic in every way, written correspondence particularly is such an important source of information. For example, a handwritten letter in Derek's collection is from the then owner of Stocks Mill Wittersham in Kent, Lady Parry, asking him to postpone his visit to



Nathanael Hodge unloading files and drawings on their arrival at the Archive, Summer 2015.



Volunteer Beth Grant listing the files.

work on her windmill because small birds had not yet finished nesting in the round house! He told us he could not refuse a request from the wife of Admiral Parry as, during World War II, he had helped sink the Pocket Battleship Admiral Graf Spee in Rio de la Plata. It turned out to be a windmill visit he would not forget. Other correspondence in the collection contains information on important mill matters, but these stories of the owners are often as just as interesting as the mill itself.



How You Can Help Us Document the Mills of the UK

Claire Wooldridge

The Archive hosts a huge database of 10,500+ mills from all over the UK. As you can imagine, keeping this information up to date and adding new mills and images is an enormous challenge!

This is where we need your help

Join the Great British Mill Race by uploading photographs and comments to a web form relating to mills you have seen or visited all over the UK. We're fully mobile ready so you can join the Mill Race using your smartphone whenever and wherever you spot a mill. We've even got a handy tool to search for mills near you, wherever you are, when you're out and about this summer.

Quick Start Guide

- Visit: www.gbmillrace.org (from May 2016)
- Find your mill.
- Snap away! Send us your pictures and mill information updates.
- You're a Great British Mill Racer! Keep up to date with new entries, pictures & prizes by following [#gbmillrace](https://twitter.com/gbmillrace)



Wilton Windmill photographed by Paul Cripps, one of the Mill Race team.

The Great British Mill Race is launching in May 2016, to coincide with the National Mills Weekend (14-15 May 2016).

We'll be using the hashtag [#gbmillrace](https://twitter.com/gbmillrace) to talk about the Great British Mill Race on Facebook, Twitter (@millsarchive), Flickr and on our blog, Mill Writing. For more information and to take part: bookmark and share our handy URL www.gbmillrace.org



Library Development and the Mercers' Company Grant

Elizabeth Trout

Visitors to the Mills Archive are impressed when they enter our Library and Reading Room. It is light, airy and, with views over the garden, it is a pleasant place to study. However, it is the hundreds of books on mills and milling that often take them by surprise, not something one would normally expect on a visit to an archive. The Library is a visible demonstration of the many resources that we have available to visiting researchers.



It is an outstanding collection in its own right and the largest publicly accessible Library on mills and milling in the world. It was 'founded' with books and journals from Peter Dolman's collection in 2002. Since then, many libraries of important mill researchers have been donated creating an impressive Library of books, journals, maps and trade literature dating from the 18th century to the present day. The broad scope and content of the Library stock reflects the wide subject interests of the collectors. The significance of the Mills Archive Library is recognised with an entry in the recent edition of the Directory of Rare Books & Special Collections.

In 2005, we created the Library & Reading Room as visitors use it today. In 2014, I devised a Mills Archive Library Classification and volunteers helped to re-catalogue and reorganise the stock into subjects and themes.

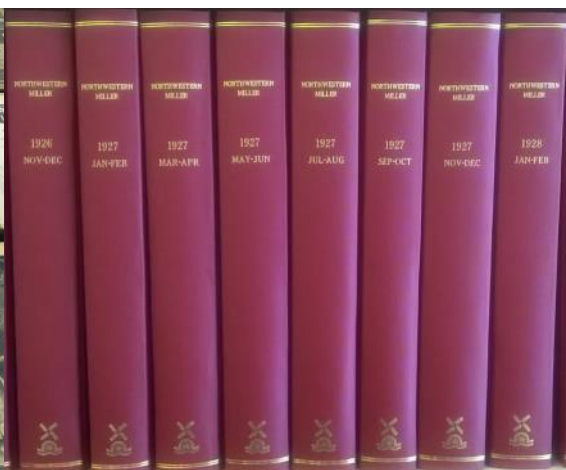
In the last five years, we have improved the storage of the Archive collections to professional archival standards. Now we



are focusing on developing the Library storage to protect antiquarian books and journals whilst making more stock available on open access.

In 2015 we successfully applied for a grant from the Mercers' Company for £8979 to help us increase space, improve accessibility and bind 19th century journals. We commissioned two large custom-made bookcases for the Library and a small bookcase in the Founders' Room for the antiquarian books.

These new bookcases have given us extra space to rearrange the books, allowing room for the Library collection to grow.



Binding journals helps to protect them, they take up less shelf space, and are easier to handle. The *Northwestern Miller* is an important American roller milling trade journal, of which we have an almost complete set. The Mercers' grant paid for over 2500 issues of the *Northwestern Miller*, from 1897 to 1973, to be professionally bound. Volunteers helped to package the journals for transportation to the binders.

The journals arrived back from the binders in 33 boxes. It didn't take long for volunteers to fill the bookcase in the office and everyone wanted to see what they looked like inside. The binding, with the Mills Archive Logo on each volume, sets the standard for other books and journals that we would like to bind in the future.





Bugs, Fires and Floods

Nathanael Hodge

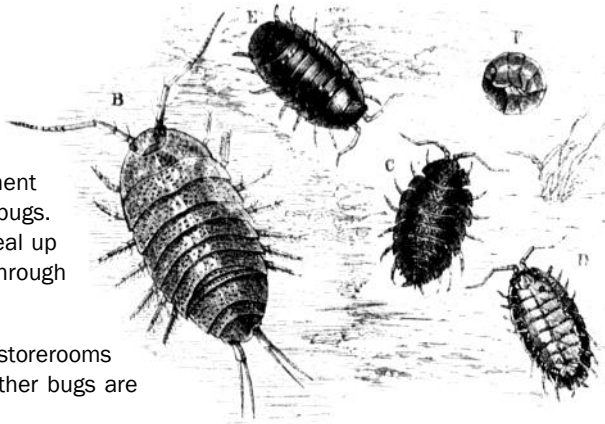
Defending the archives against attack

Archives are vulnerable in all sorts of ways. One of our priorities at the Mills Archive recently has been to improve in how we care for our collections, and we have put a lot of time into this. Here are some of the ways archives can be damaged or destroyed, and what needs to be done about it.

Bugs

Insects and other creepy-crawlies are one potential source of damage to archives. It's easy to spot a document where bits have been nibbled away by bugs. The best way to keep bugs out is to seal up any holes, cracks under doors etc through which they might enter the archive.

We place sticky bug traps around the storerooms and check these regularly to see whether bugs are getting in.



Mould

Damp conditions breed mould. To keep this at bay we need to store our archives at the correct temperature and humidity. Mould grows at over 65% relative humidity, so we need to keep our storerooms below that. Dehumidifiers help in damp areas. Humidity is linked to temperature - as one rises the other falls - so keeping the stores a bit warmer can also reduce the humidity. Too warm a temperature would damage the archives, however.



To check how well we are doing we have temperature and humidity USB loggers in all our storerooms. These can be plugged into a PC to create a graph of temperature and humidity over a period. Like most archives which don't have a custom made building, we are never going to achieve the perfect conditions, but we can find ways to improve.



1937 image of Stelling Minnis from the Holman collection.

avoided. The Archive invests a lot of money in purchasing the best archival packaging, made to conservation standards.

Fire and flood

We also have to consider the possibility of a disaster in the Archive. The mostly likely form of damage is water damage, whether from a flood or burst pipe, or from the water used to put out a fire. Water damaged items can still be saved if they are dried out before mould sets in. Harwell, an emergency recovery organisation would be our first port of call in a major disaster. They would take away damaged material and freeze it to prevent mould growth, before slowly drying and conserving it. In smaller disasters we might be able to dry out material ourselves. Our Disaster Plan sets out all the steps we would take in the event of a disaster.

Right: Practicing salvage of items on our emergency training day, 2015.

Storing and handling

The most damage to archives comes from the way they are handled. Contrary to popular belief, you don't need white gloves when holding old documents - these can actually lead to more damage as your fingers will be less sensitive and you could more easily tear the paper.

Gloves are recommended for photos, however. Although you can't see it, every time you touch the surface of a photo you leave behind a residue, which over time will cause the chemicals that make up the image to change. A few decades later there might be a big fingerprint where you touched the photograph.

We need to make sure staff, volunteers and visitors are told about the best way to handle items and given the help they need. Storing items in the right sort of packaging is also important - tape, metal fasteners and rubber bands all rust or corrode and should definitely be avoided.



Bookshelf

Ron Cookson



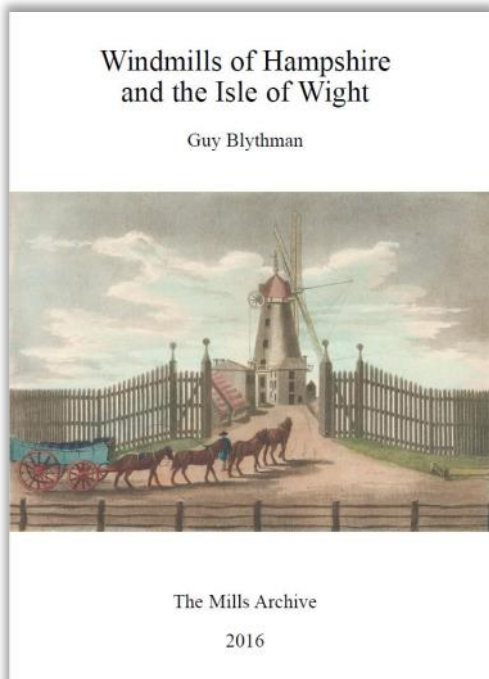
An addition to the Mills Archive Family

Bookshop customers will have appreciated the energy and care that Nataliya has put into the shop over the last year or two. With her help, we now offer more than 840 books, more than 70 postcards and 120 periodicals – all on mills or closely-related subjects. Nataliya is now on maternity leave – but is hoping to come back soon. We wish her well and Ron has promised to keep the shop in good order in her absence – aided by volunteer Liz Storey.

An addition to the Mills Archive Research Publications

As promised in the last issue of Mill Memories, we have now published Guy Blythman's excellent book on *The Windmills of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight* as the fourth in our Research Publications series. The book is perfect bound (116 pp plus card covers) and retails at £15 plus £2 post and packing. More details may be found here <http://tinyurl.com/jx4g2t7>

Friends of the Mills Archive may obtain their copy of this impressive book for £6 if they call and collect or by sending us a cheque for £8 payable to the Mills Archive Trust.

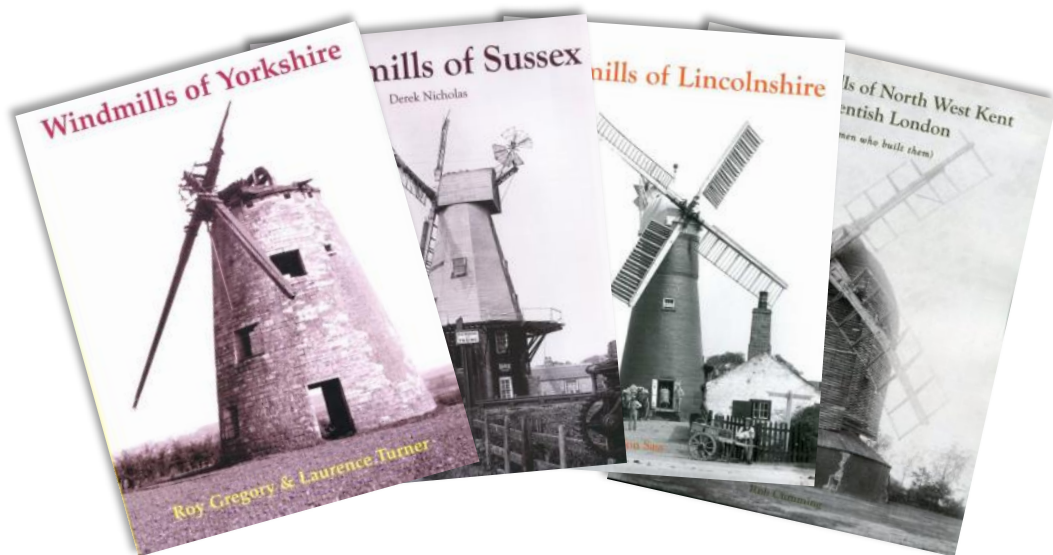


Other news

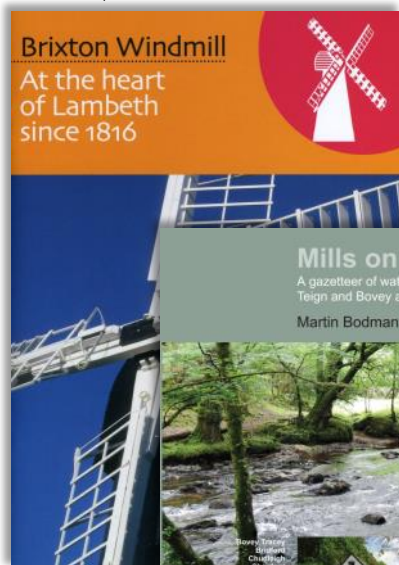
New books continue to arrive and a selection are featured here, more can be found in our featured books section in the shop. The most dramatic set are the first four of the windmill series published over the last couple of years by Richard Stenlake (covering the windmills of Yorkshire, by Gregory and Turner; Sussex, by Nicholas; Lincolnshire, by Sass;



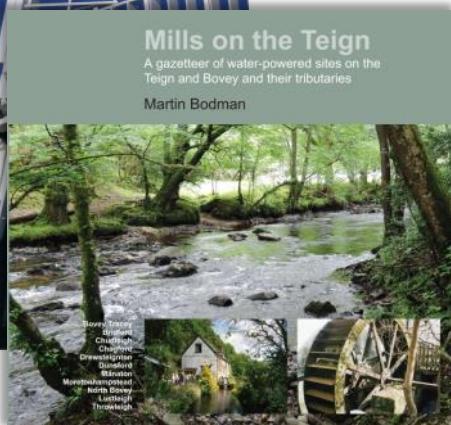
and North West Kent and Kentish London, by Cumming). Stenlake Publications support the Archive as a Corporate Friend and we are pleased to offer their books in our shop.



Another new and important book is the recently published guidebook from Brixton windmill, who celebrate their 200th anniversary this year. Beautifully produced and only £4 plus p&p, we are selling this to aid the Friends of Windmill Gardens who are one of our Heritage Partners.



This issue's *Bookshelf* is dominated by windmills, but 40% of our stock relates to watermills. A good example of this is Martin Bodman's most recent book *Mills on the Teign*; a gazetteer of water-powered sites on the Teign and the Bovey and their tributaries. This is temporarily available in our Spring sale at £12, reduced from £16.



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 directions and a map are available on our website.

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.

We welcome visitors but please make an appointment first. We are open from 10am until 3pm on Mondays to Fridays.

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*

Key Privileges For Our Friends

As a Friend, are you making the most of the privileges available to you?

- 5 free high-resolution images every month
- 10% discount on purchases from our online bookshop
- Research service: 1st hour free every year, discounted thereafter
- Copyright waivers
- Mill Memories every 6 months
- Invitations to exclusive Friends' events



Visit our website and blog: millsarchive.org

Find us on facebook: facebook.com/MillsArchive

Follow us on twitter: twitter.com/MillsArchive





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 23) as well as knowing they are helping to protect an unrivalled world-class resource.



For more information write to the address above or email us
friends@millsarchive.org

Next Time: Antiquarian Mill Books

What makes a book “Rare” or “Antiquarian”? To some extent these two relatively vague but omnipresent terms are used interchangeably in the book trade. Nevertheless, they do have subtly different connotations. Antiquarian, like antique, suggests something both old and collectible; that is, a book one would want to preserve both for its age alone and also for its intrinsic interest as an object. By contrast, the term “rare” suggests something definitely valuable. The next issue of Mill Memories will explore these concepts.

