



Mill Memories

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Mills Archive

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New Heritage Partners and Corporate Friends

Liz Bartram

NEW Heritage Partner: Tim Andrew, Professional Photographer and Mill Book Author



Please welcome our newest Heritage Partner, Tim Andrew. Tim is about to publish a beautiful coffee table book that showcases Brill Windmill. Tim has visited the mill for the past 25 years and has captured some unique and inspiring shots. The high-quality photos show how the mill has been restored and the involvement of the local community in preserving this relic of our heritage.

We will be selling this book in the very near future – to find out when it's available, keep an eye on our blog or you can subscribe to our bookshop enewsletter – please email me at friends@millsarchive.org to be added to the mailing list.

NEW Corporate Friend: The JESSOP Consultancy

The JESSOP Consultancy is our newest Corporate Friend. They decided to

support us so that they could receive a number of high-resolution images of a mill site

Heritage, Historic Buildings and their Settings



that they were writing a report on. The Jessop Consultancy provides a range of professional services associated with the survey, investigation and analysis of historic buildings and structures, listed buildings and heritage landscapes to establish their historical development and cultural significance.

You can find out more about their work on their website:

<http://www.thejessopconsultancy.co.uk/>

NEW Corporate Friend: Winchester City Mill

Winchester City Mill became a Corporate Friend after their involvement in our Quern to Computer project. Mildred, Claire and I visited the Mill and were very impressed by the visitor experience they provide. We have enjoyed working with them so far and we look forward to doing more with them. We also hope to build more relationships with other National Trust-owned mills.

Right: Mildred, Liz and Claire with Ric Weeks, Winchester City Mill Manager.



Help Us to Help More People

Do you know of a mill that might benefit from becoming a Heritage Partner or Corporate Friend? We would be delighted to help with publicity, copyright fee reductions and access to archive support and training workshops. Our Heritage Partner subscription is £100 pa and the Corporate Friend packages start at £250 pa. I would love to hear from you. For a discussion – with no obligation – please email me at friends@millsarchive.org.

Here are some of the comments we have received from our Heritage Partner and Corporate Friend supporters:

“Your trust has been of great value in assisting Oldland Windmill to attain the status in the mills world that we now enjoy. In particular, you [have] made us welcome and never hesitated to assist us whenever we needed help.”

Fred Maillardet, Chairman, Oldland Mill Trust

“Over the past few years MA has been of invaluable assistance to the Friends of Upminster Windmill as we progress with our major project to restore the mill and record its history, providing essential information, along with guidance in archiving and IT techniques to enhance our information resources.”

Cliff Featherston, Friends of Upminster Windmill



This Is Only the Beginning...

Ron Cookson

The Mills Archive is now well-known and appreciated in the mills world. This is partly through our own efforts, but also those of our supporters over the last 15 years. Yes it really was April 2002 when we first appeared!

We frequently point out to you, as Friends of the Mills Archive, how grateful we are for your support. It is rather pleasing to be able to say to you that your faith in us has been rewarded by our national recognition as an accredited archive service. Accreditation is not only a badge of honour, recognising that we work to the highest standards in all aspects of our work, it is also a detailed, almost forensic examination of everything we do and plan to do.



*Alex Ritchie from the National Archives presents the certificate to
Nathanael Hodge.*

The examination started in 2014 and never finishes. As one of the first charities and certainly the youngest archive in the country to be recognised, we benefited enormously from the detailed assessment and, in turn, the assessors were impressed by many of our initiatives. We were particularly pleased with their view that we are a model for other small specialist services and the way they commended our work with Heritage Partners.

The Certificate was presented to the accreditation team and our trustees at a ceremony in the Founders' Room at the

Archive. We were pleased to welcome two representatives of the Heritage Lottery Fund, which has given us a lot of support over our first few years, and more recently with *From Quern to Computer* (see the symposium announcement on p 19).

Paying tribute to their assistance, we made two points that were well received: we have been very successful and we have only just got started! We pointed out how support from the Friends enabled us to do so much; regular giving means we can plan for the future and are not holding our breath, hoping for the next project grant.

Your Archive (yes it is yours as much as ours!) now holds 220 collections, a figure that is increasing by 4 or 5 per month. Together they hold more than 3 million items and they are all free to view. When we started, we had no idea how big this venture would become. Only a few weeks ago Nathanael and Mildred rescued thousands of architects' drawings on their way to the skip. Their adventure is described on page 10 et seq. This continuing need for vigilance and for professional care of the highest standard was the main focus of the forward view we presented.



The presentation ceremony was followed by enjoying Elizabeth's cake, cleverly iced with the Mills Archive and Accreditation logos!

Our plans for the future are exciting and demanding. Now we have demonstrated the need for a specialist archive and our ability to meet the need at the highest standard, we will increasingly focus on the content and importance of our collections. Apart from the fabulous material some of them hold, the stories the collectors have told us in their hunts for mill material are quite gripping. Methods of transport were not only unconventional, but quite risky. Watch this space to read about a possible need to travel by trawler from Aberdeen in the 1950s and of an eventful journey in the back of a lorry, complete with sheep and rough-looking peasants to look for mills in Afghanistan.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES FEEDBACK

Outstanding development in recent years

In particular, they praised

*volunteering, fundraising development
online provision and cataloguing
the excellent website
very strong documentation*

A model for other small, specialist services.

Strongly commended work with the wider mills heritage community





What Makes a Book Rare or Antiquarian?

Mildred Cookson

In sorting our library at the Archive, I have to ask myself, which books should go in the Antiquarian bookcase. Not an easy decision. Trying to define “antiquarian” or “rare” books is not as easy as it sounds. It can mean different things to different people. To some extent these two relatively vague but omnipresent terms are used interchangeably in the book trade. Nevertheless, they do have subtly different connotations.



Some of the antiquarian books in the Mills Archive's collections.

Antiquarian, like antique, suggests something both old and collectable; 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. So how do we define the special category of antiquarian books called rare books?

Perhaps a book owned by someone of significance makes it rare, but old books aren't necessarily rare and rare books aren't necessarily old.

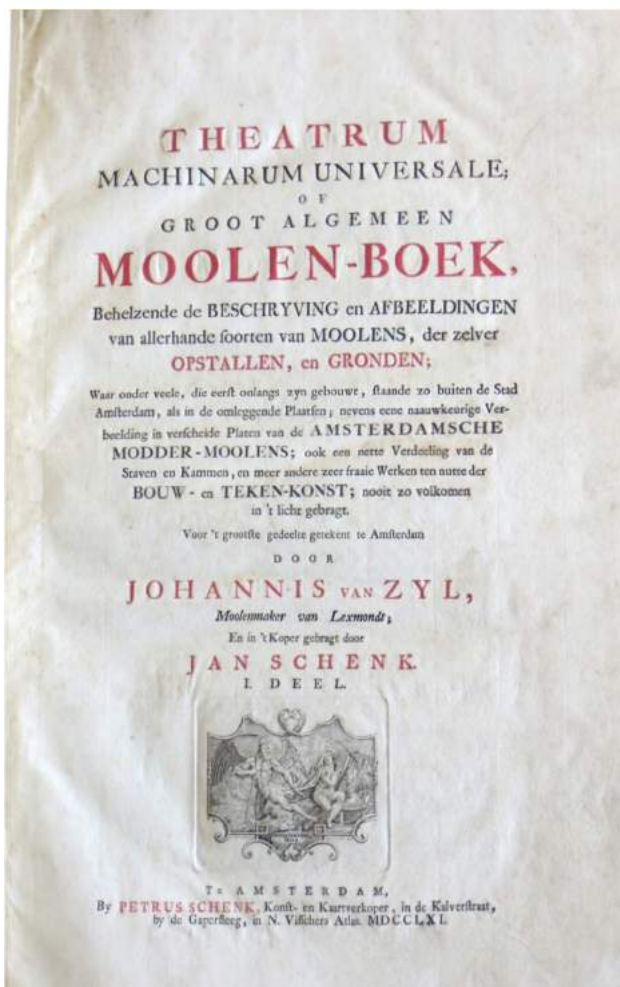
To be valuable in the market place and thus command a premium price, a book must satisfy at least one criterion, and usually more.

First is scarcity of copies. Books printed in editions of 25,000 copies or more usually do not become rare. On the other hand some of us may have family memoirs privately printed in editions of perhaps a dozen or fewer copies for distribution to family members. Most of these extremely scarce books have no interest whatsoever to anyone outside of the families concerned, and are frequently close to worthless unless they concern a figure of historic importance.



Scarcity by itself is thus not usually enough to make a book rare, but if there was a privately printed memoir directly concerning the life and work of a mill person or millwright for example, the memoirs would also fulfill the second criterion, namely one of substantive importance, or the significance of the book's contents.

An antiquarian book may be roughly defined as a book printed prior to 1900 or as a book that is valued as a unique physical object. The value might derive from the edition, the quality of the printing, binding, or illustrations, the provenance, etc., but the book is not valued strictly as a vessel of the content inside. On the other hand you could buy a hardcover 1979 reprint of 'Theatrum Machinarum Universale of Groot Algemeer Moolenboek' for 104 pounds, and get the same text as a first edition. So why would you pay £4,000 for a beautiful, unrestored 1734 first edition? Because *that's* an antiquarian book. We have a 1761 copy of this book in our library, which came from the Stephen Buckland collection.



Title page of the 1761 edition of the 'Moolen-boek'.

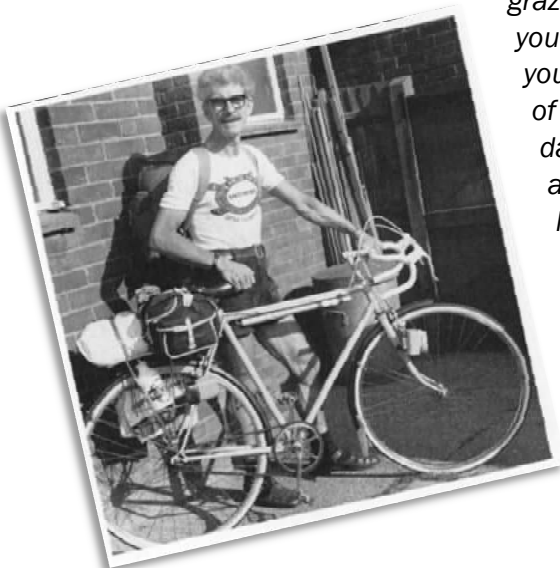
Our antiquarian books are kept safely in a specially made bookcase and some do require a little work on the binding whilst others really do need a complete rebinding. This costs money, and we are grateful to the Mercers Company who recently gave us a grant for new bookcases but also included in the grant was the repair of two of our antiquarian books.



Adopt a Collection

Liz Bartram

You fall head first into a 6ft deep ditch, full of muddy water, with the bike that you had just been riding crashing down on top of you. Your shins are grazed, your forehead is bruised, and you are feeling a little bit wobbly. But you still need to scramble up the side of the bank and check if you have damaged any of the equipment you are carrying. You are now living the life of windmill enthusiast Arthur C Smith. How did you get yourself in this situation?



This is the start of just one of many stories that our collections can reveal. Sometimes the collections need a little coaxing to tell their stories. Other times you can find them just by opening a page in a diary or diving into our online catalogue.

Did you know that Miss E M Gardner, who did so much to record the nation's windmills and whose collection we care for, was a suffragette? Our recent Emilie Gardner feature for International Women's Day attracted worldwide attention including from those who wouldn't fall within the mill enthusiast category.

To put our collections on the map – of which there are currently more than 220! – and to help us continue to care for their contents, we have launched a new scheme called *Adopt a Collection*.

This initiative is an invitation for people who care, like you, to express interest in and recognise the importance of our milling collections by adopting a collection. Your support will be used to go towards





the care of all our collections so that they will continue to be safe and available for the public for years to come.

Both Arthur and Emilie's collections are up for adoption. Or perhaps you identify with the subject of a collection rather than a person? For example the Peter Dolman Collection is one of the three collections we have selected for our adoption theme of "Rescue and Repair". Peter was a volunteer millwright who was personally responsible for bringing both Stanton and Thelnetham mills back to working order. The late Vincent Pargeter, himself a well-respected millwright, wrote an article about Peter's life for our website.



Another of our adoption themes "Vulnerable Material" currently offers two collections for adoption – the Armfield Drawings Collection (left) and the Jon Sass Collection (right).

We have a list of the collections we are currently offering for adoption on our website here: <http://bit.ly/2ol2XK3> or go to our homepage and click on the Adopt a Collection box. You can browse the collections by theme. If you would like to adopt a collection that isn't on our list then do get in touch by emailing me directly at friends@millsarchive.org

You can find out more about the collections and the adoption rewards through our website, as well as become an adopter online. Alternatively, please get in touch with me by emailing friends@millsarchive.org . I would be happy to discuss the scheme with you and answer any questions you have.

Would you like to join our new Adopt a Collection newsletter mailing list? Each monthly newsletter features a story from one of our collections. If you would like to join this mailing list to gain some fascinating insight into the archive stories then please let me know.



Excavating a Cellar: Gelder & Kitchen

Mildred Cookson

The Mills Archive recently played a vital part in the rescue of an important archive destined for destruction. The architectural practice of Gelder and Kitchen had recently gone into liquidation and their large collection of files was under severe threat - including many drawings and plans relating to their work on roller flour mills.

Sir Alfred Gelder

Alfred Gelder was born on the 12th May 1855, the son of a joiner and wheelwright. In 1878, at the age of 23 he set up his architectural practice in Hull.

He was a close personal friend of Joseph Rank and the two were near neighbours, living one at each end of a small terrace of four houses on Holderness Road. They were both also staunch Methodists. Rank approached Gelder to design his first roller flour mill, the Clarence Mills in Hull in 1891.

In 1892 Gelder formed an association with Llewellyn Kitchen, the son of a commercial traveller from Manchester, and made him a partner in the firm, and so the firm of Gelder and Kitchen was born.

Gelder was elected Mayor of Hull in 1899 and five times thereafter. He was knighted in the year 1903, and in 1910 he entered Parliament as the Liberal MP for Brigg, a position he held until 1918. He died on the 26th August in the year 1941.



Sir Alfred Gelder as Mayor of Hull. Photo from The Miller.

The firm developed expertise on the design of flour mills, oilseed crushing mills and related facilities at a time when Hull was a major European centre for the industry. Moving to the Grade I listed Maister House, Hull in 1966, they continued working with the modern flour milling industry, building mills for Joseph Rank Ltd (later Rank Hovis McDougall) and Allied Mills, among other clients. Sadly the firm went into liquidation in 2016, leaving the records of a century and a quarter of work with the modern flour milling industry in the cellars at Maister House.

*Design for offices and warehouse
for Joseph Rank's mill,
Clarence Street, Hull, 1896.*

— Plan of

— Wareh

— Clarence

— r

flint
— Joseph

— 1/8



— Elevation to Clarence St —



Maister House

Amazingly, we were the only repository to express an interest in any part of the vast archive of the firm. We had, however, to move quickly as the National Trust were looking to clear the house and the contents of the cellar were destined for the skip within two or three weeks. So we travelled up to Hull and spent two days emptying the basement of all the mill files for couriering to Reading.

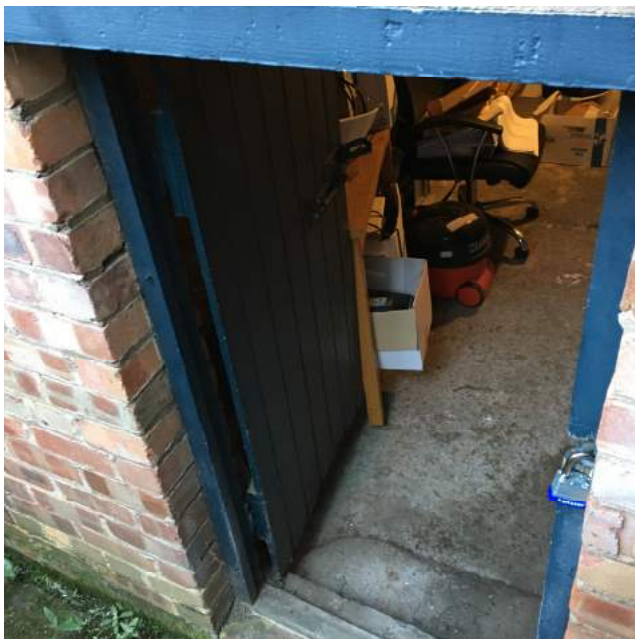
We had not realised the difficulty of the job before us. The National Trust curator had warned that there was no heat or water in the house. The files were in two cramped and crowded basements with only a 5ft 6in ceiling; no problem for me, but more of a challenge for our over 6ft archivist! We also had to search through nearly two thousand files to find the roller flour mill ones as the firm's archivist retired many years ago and was never replaced. This meant that there was no filing system in place and new files were just placed in the basement where there was an available space!

Left: Maister House.

Below: The entrance to one of two basements, each filled with files.

Moving various boxes and other items before we could get to the files ensured that after the first hour we were already warmed up. We could only carry five or six large files at a time out of the basement labyrinth to stack them in the hallway. Some twelve hours hard work resulted in us rescuing over 600 files.

The next day we were back to load up the van, and in a few hours the files had made their way to Reading.





The cellars - originally designed for coal and wine, they now had files stuffed into every nook and cranny.



Nathanael pulling out mill files.



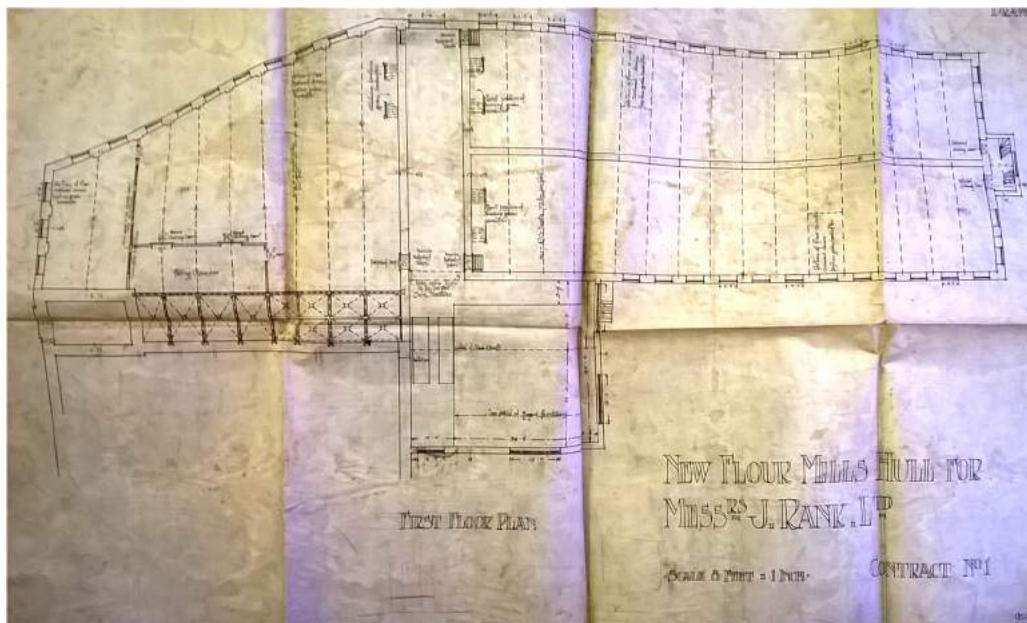
Loading the van.



The van being unloaded at the other end.



Some of the files which have already been listed and boxed.



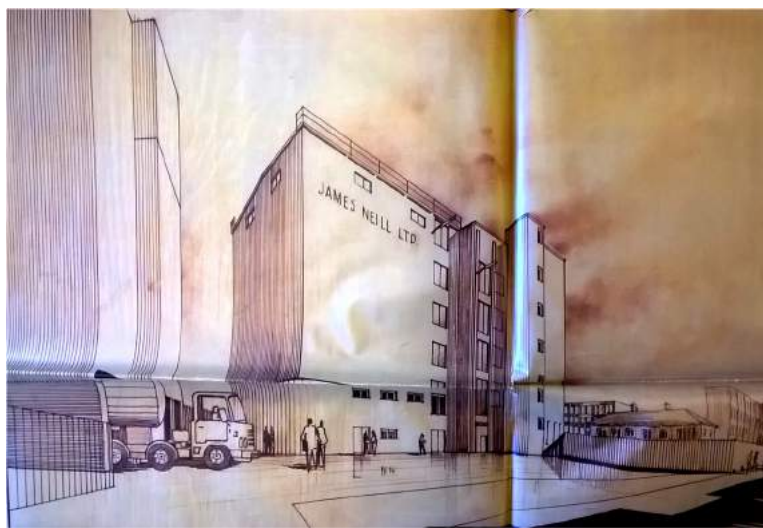
The Collection

With the help of the couriers, the files made it back to Reading and are now being cleaned, repackaged in archival storage boxes and catalogued. The earliest files we have found so far are from 1896 with details of the Clarence Mills.

Other mills we have so far come across include Chancelot Mills, Leith, Edinburgh; Sovereign Mills, Corby, Northamptonshire and Sunblest Flour Mill, Tilbury, Essex. We have rescued quite a treasure trove, with more to find as we work our way through them, but now they are saved for future researchers.

Above: First floor plan of Clarence Mills, Hull, from the oldest file in the collection (1896).

Right: One of the more modern drawings - remodel of James Neill's Mill, Belfast, 1980s.





New Workshop: Creating Records of Your Mill and Using Them

Liz Bartram

Do you work at a mill or know someone who does? Or perhaps you are interested in capturing the current state of a mill as well as its past, so that a record of its existence lasts well into the future?

This could include taking photos, recording stories about people who have lived and worked at the mill, taking measurements and making simple drawings.

If so then **our new training workshop is for you**. Join us on **26th July 2017** to explore how to create records of a mill and how to use them. Share ideas and experience with likeminded people while hearing from a variety of speakers who are experts in their fields. Above all, we wish to provide you with tools and advice to help you interpret and transmit a mill's story.

All course materials are provided, including a printed reference guide. We will also provide lunch.

"For those of us getting a mill back to life and then maintaining it, the opportunity to share the experience is vital to speed things up. Being able to exchange 'tips and traps' is a prime requirement too. I am sure that the Mills Archive will be a great 'hub' to get us all talking to each other."

Upminster Windmill participant after attending a past workshop.

We hope to see you there!

Date: Wednesday 26th July 2017 **Venue: The Mills Archive, Reading**

Price: 1 free place for Heritage Partners (£50 pp thereafter)

3 free places for Corporate Friends (£50 pp thereafter)

Public fee: £100 per person

Contact: Liz Bartram, Development Manager, friends@millsarchive.org, 0118 950 2052





William R Voller

Mildred Cookson

Mill Manager of the

Albert Flour Mills

Gloucester

&

Author of

Modern Flour Milling

**‘A handbook for millers
and others interested in
the grain and flour trades’
(published 1889)**



William Voller was born in Swindon in 1855 and was adopted at the age of four by his uncle Mr Henry Newton, a corn dealer. In 1862 Mr. Newton became tenant of the water mill at Bishopstone, built in 1818, containing three pairs of stones and then a going concern.

William attended the village school until 14 and was considered the best at reading, spelling, arithmetic and geography; no fancy subjects were taught in village schools at that time! He had two years' training as a stone dresser, and at 16 he took charge of the mill entirely. He read as much as he could, although books were very scarce, and anyone who lent him one was considered a good friend.

In 1874, wanting more experience, he went to Gloucester where a place had been promised him by Mr WT Hibbard of Messrs. Jas. Reynolds and Co. of the Albert Mills. Mr Hibbard had his parental home in Bishopstone, hence the connection. The Albert Mills were built in 1869 running with millstones, gradually changing over to roller milling. The mill closed down in 1977 and is now an apartment building.

For five years William did the wheat foreman's work and when the manager's place became vacant in 1879 it was offered to him. After using and testing Wegmann and Ganz



rolls the firm in 1882 decided to put in a Henry Simon plant of four to five sacks' capacity as an experiment, but the mill still retained its millstones until 1884.

A "Gloucester Milling Class" had been created and was described in detail by Voller himself in Chapter XXVII of his book. He wrote; '*the class was brought about because of the need of men who understood something of the principal of roller milling but wanted to know more*'. In 1883 he attended the class and went on to teach about gradual reduction milling. His book, *Modern Flour Milling*, was the outcome of two wants: first, young millers often wrote to him asking what book could be recommended for them to read, and second, the Gloucester Class wanted printed notes.

AWARDED TO W. R. VOLLER



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH AND IRISH MILLERS
GOLD MEDAL, 1885

information and illustrations describing the different processes and machines that perform them. We have three editions (1889 – 1897) of his book our library at The Mills Archive.

Some notable dates in his life:

1883 Awarded 1st Class Honours Certificate

1885 Awarded Silver Medal in Honours (City and Guilds of London examination in Milling) and nabim gold medal.

1885 Registered Teacher in 'Milling' under the City and Guilds of London Institute

1889 Awarded Bronze Medal in Bread Making and Gold Medal in Milling Technology in Paris.

He was a member of the Gloucester Chamber of Commerce and of the Gloucestershire Engineering Society.

His book took the notes from the milling class, enlarged on them and, knowing the value of illustrations in all technical works, interspersed the text with numerous engravings of the best-known machines being used at that time. In 1890 his book was accepted as a standard work on the subject of roller flour milling, and today is still read and seen on the bookshelves of mill enthusiasts and those in the milling profession. It is an excellent book, full of

Above left: nabim gold medal awarded to Voller in 1885.

Below: William Voller's signature

Yours faithfully
W. R. Voller

Quern to Computer Symposium

Mildred Cookson

If you enjoyed your last Mill Memories, the *From Quern to Computer* special, you won't want to miss this special symposium arranged for Saturday 14 October.

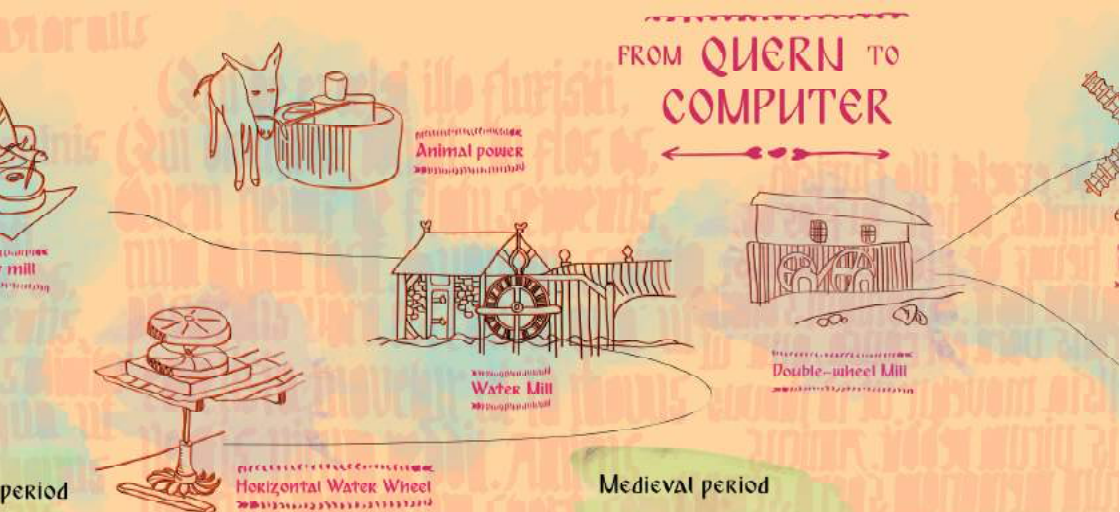
Make a note of the date and the fact that attendance and lunch is free to Friends of the Mills Archive! This major event is the culmination of our two-year Lottery-funded project and we hope that you will be able to attend. We are hosting this as the SPAB Mills Section Autumn Meeting and they will be handling registration for the symposium.

To claim your free place as a Friend of the Archive you will need to let the Section know, so they can add you to the list of participants. Registration will open in the summer, so if you would like a reminder nearer the time, email Liz at friends@millsarchive.org

The meeting will be held in the Garden Hall at Watlington House, within its beautiful walled garden. The programme promises to be equally attractive.

Talks will cover aspects of the 8000 year history of milling from hand-held querns, via medieval milling, to modern roller flour mills. Based on Bennett and Elton's four-volume work, *The History of Corn Milling*, the story is brought up to date by a panel of distinguished speakers, experts at communicating their chosen topics.

The symposium will be accompanied by an exhibition of documents, artefacts and much more to complement the talks. There will also be an exhibition running at Reading Museum from June to the start of September based on the Archive project, so if you are able to get to see this I think you will enjoy that as well.





Michael Harverson (1937-2017)

Ron Cookson



We were saddened to hear of the death of Michael Harverson on Thursday 2 March 2017. He will be greatly missed by his many friends, including the staff and volunteers at the Mills Archive.

Tributes have been arriving since we heard the sad news. Universally respected as a kind and gentle man, he was a gentleman and a scholar.

Until his retirement in 2014, he was one of original trustees of the Mills Archive Trust, appointed by the SPAB, and instrumental in bringing their collection to the care of the Archive. He served on the SPAB Mills Section committee and the council of TIMS (The International Molinological Society) as President. In the latter capacity he also translated, edited and/or wrote a number of

books and articles. He was instrumental in setting up the TIMS Educational Trust and was active as a volunteer at Cromer Windmill.

Most recently he wrote, with our volunteer Guy Boocock, two Mills Archive Research Publications on the work of Stephen Buckland.

His particular field of mill studies was the Middle East and specifically Iran. His work "Mills of the Muslim World" was published as a Rex Wailes lecture in 2000. This well-illustrated A5 booklet contained much of his original research on the various types of windmill, watermill and animal-powered mill used in the Muslim world from Cordoba and Fez in the West to Samarkand and Herat in the East.

Although in later years he was handicapped with Parkinsonism, he was always determined to come to meetings and to continue his interests. He was still contemplating further research shortly before he passed away.

I will miss his guidance and his gentle criticism; it was a privilege to know him and work with him.

A longer tribute to Michael can be found at <https://millsarchive.org/explore/features-and-articles/entry/175818/michael-harverson-trustee-and-molinologist>



Bookshelf

Ron Cookson

Mills Archive Research Publications

This prestigious series is gathering pace with two new publications during 2016 and the first for 2017 now hot off the press. Others are planned for the near future, and we are always interested in suggestions to publish high quality research work.

Saundersons: Millwrights and Engineers of Louth, Lincolnshire

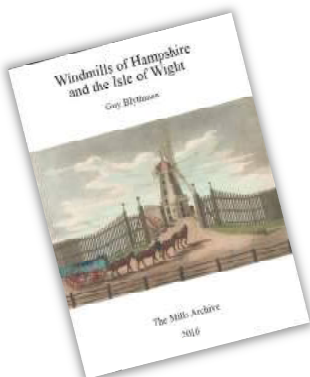
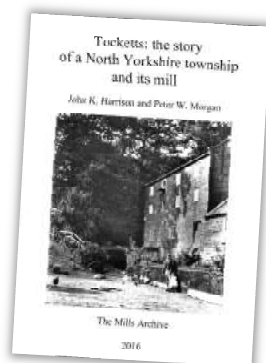
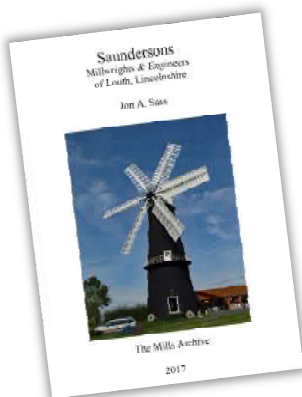
Jon Sass has provided an enthralling account of the work and legacy of three generations of John Saundersons spanning 120 years. Due for publication by the end of April, it will be priced at £10. Friends may order a copy post-free in return for a cheque for that amount.

Tocketts: The Story of a North Yorkshire Township and Its Mill

In the autumn we were very pleased to publish the detailed study of Tocketts Mill written by John Harrison and Peter Morgan. This impressive book is our first one on water-power and sets the standard for any future publications in the Archive Research series. Containing many fine illustrations and thoroughly referenced, the work is of the high standard you would expect from these authors. A very positive review written by Alan Stoyel appears in the current issue of the SPAB Mills Section *Mill News*. Available to the public for £10 plus p&p, Friends may order a copy by sending us a cheque for £5.

Windmills of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Guy Blythman's wide-ranging study of the history of windmills in Hants and IOW has proved our most popular to date; a well-presented 116 page A4 volume which we featured in our Spring 2016 issue of *Mill Memories*. The public price with p&p is £18, but Friends may order a copy by sending us a cheque for £8 made payable to the Mills Archive Trust.



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



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REGULATOR**



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: Mill Stamps

What happened on 6th May 1840? Find out when we explore the fascinating story of mill stamps in the next Mill Memories. Our collections at the Mills Archive include stamps from many countries around the world. They illustrate the many uses that wind, water and muscle power can be used for; from water raising to horse mills, querns to wind engines, forges to sugar mills. The stamps include both old and new, as well as many first day covers. You can even discover what a 'cinderella' is!

