



Mill Memories

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Mills Archive

Issue 28

Spring 2021

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*Putting the Wind Back in
our Sails ~ p. 13*

New Beginnings

Liz Bartram

At last, Spring has sprung, and with it our renewed hope for a kinder year for us all. I remain indebted to my colleagues for collectively ensuring that our milling history stays safe and secure. We continue to explore ways of making more precious material available to people around the world, and a recent project has now come to fruition.

In January 2021, we received a small grant from the National Archives. The project they are funding – *Archiving @ Home* – has involved the creation of a digital platform. We developed this platform so that people could transcribe some of our handwritten documents from the comfort of their own home.

While this initiative is helping to address the barrier to travel posed by Covid, we will all continue to benefit from it post-Covid. No longer will any barriers to on-site volunteering prevent someone from helping to expand the wealth of milling records available for research and enjoyment.



Spring is definitely a herald of new beginnings. While in December we had to say goodbye to our long-serving colleague and Information Manager Elizabeth Trout (we pay credit to her on page 12), we have since welcomed a new recruit. Dr Jane Freebody has recently joined the Trust as our new Development Manager, bringing her combined background of fundraising, marketing and historical research to the team.

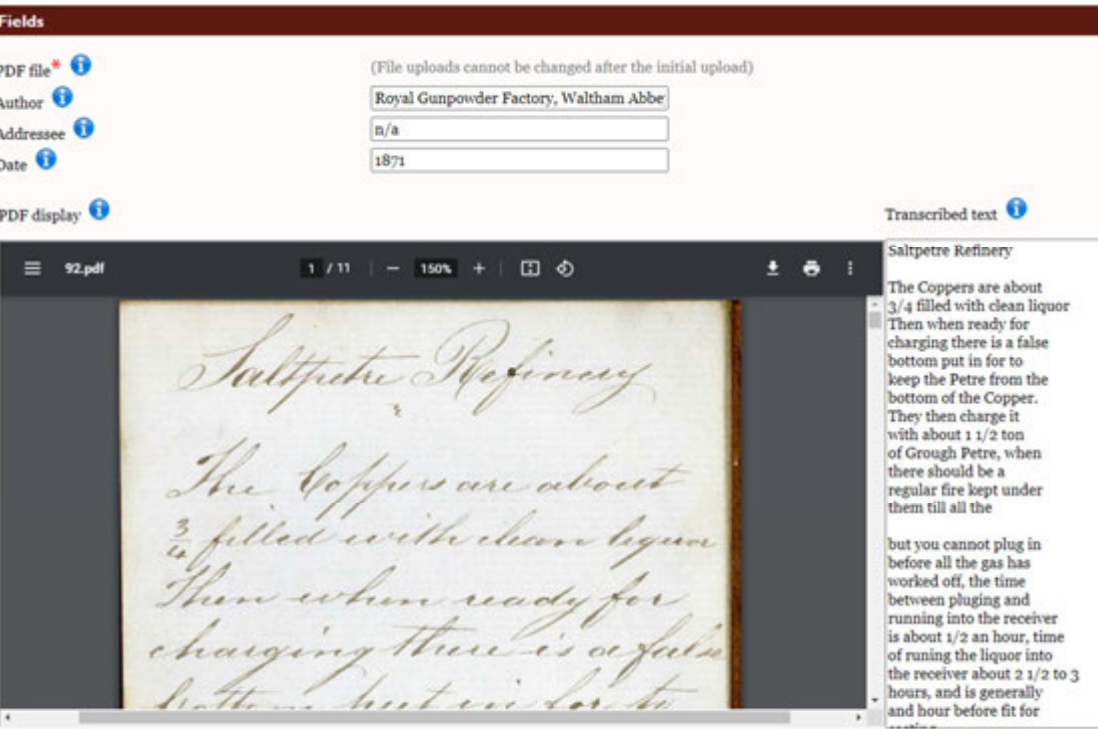
Many of you have already made her feel welcome by supporting the fundraising campaign she launched in



Spring is when the garden here at Watlington House starts looking particularly beautiful (above). Things are a little different this year, however, due to the presence of a vaccination centre in the garden hall (right).

February. "Help us put the wind back in our sails" (an update on this campaign is provided by Jane on pages 13-16).

We hope you enjoy reading this latest issue of Mill Memories. As always, if you have any comments, such as the sort of content you'd like to read in future issues, then do let us know by emailing friends@millsarchive.org or writing to us (our address is on page 26).



The "Archiving @ Home" site.

'Benefits of Getting the Sack'

From wooden barrels to cloth and paper packaging for flour

Mildred Cookson

Pays for Itself



Werner & Pfleiderer's Sack Cleaner

Earns its own cost quickly in the flour it saves and is a great convenience to MILLERS, BAKERS and FLOUR DEALERS

Werner & Pfleiderer
Saginaw, W. S., Michigan

Continuing our story of packaging flour in the US (see *Mill Memories* 26 pp. 16-19), we move on from wooden barrels to cloth and paper being used.

In developing a suitable change in the packaging, thought had not only to be given to what material to use, but also to the machinery needed to fill them. Other food manufacturers were making rapid advances in packaging to sell their products in efficient and attractive ways.

When the decline of the wooden flour barrel set in, jute and cotton bags rapidly took their place. Bags made from these materials were already in use for other industries and they adapted well as flour containers.

Once again machinery had to be invented to clean the flour sacks. (see advert, left)

Packaging advanced as did everything else in the production of flour, and this contributed to the successful merchandising of the product. Cloth bags were ideal to be reused widely by the family for clothing. Many adverts of the time showed children and adults wearing clothes from the bags. Indeed it could have been called 'Fashion's in the Bag'

Bemis Wash-Out Inks Win Friends for Your Product Because They Really Wash Out

Housewives in many parts of the country look beyond the quality of flour they buy. They count on *extra savings* by making garments from the cloth in the bags. Therefore, the brand printed in inks that really wash out wins their favor.



A LITTLE GIRL'S PRIDE
Can Help or Hinder Your Flour Sales

The Real Pure Food Show

Aids Trade

WASHBURN-CROSBY'S GOLD MEDAL FLOUR

COPYRIGHT 1928 WASHBURN-CROSBY CO. MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. U.S.A.



Above: The author at work in Mapledurham watermill.



Later, paper bags appeared, but even as their use increased, the size of the flour unit decreased; nevertheless, cotton and jute at this time in 1934 were still by far the most widely used for flour.

American wheat imported into the UK sometimes came over in jute sacks and I myself would re-use them in the mill. With an abundant supply of cotton and the fact that they suited the purpose of a flour sack, it seemed only natural that these would have a widespread use.

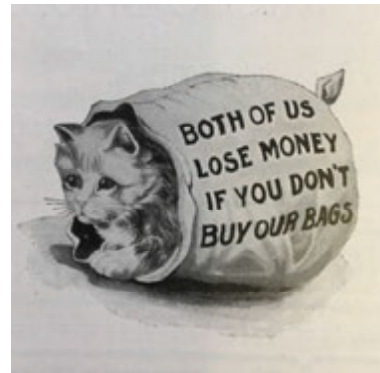
They were economical, and could be re-used. The stage was reached whereby the filling and closing of the sacks had been brought almost to an exact science. Improved printing processes meant that several colours could be printed on them with inks that would, after many washes, remove all trace, so adding to the sacks reuse value.

During the Depression many families used cotton flour bags and feed sacks to make not only clothes, but curtains and other household items including nappies. Once the manufacturers cottoned on to this they began decorating them. The Percy Kent Bag Company even hired top textile designers from Europe and New York City to create stylish prints.

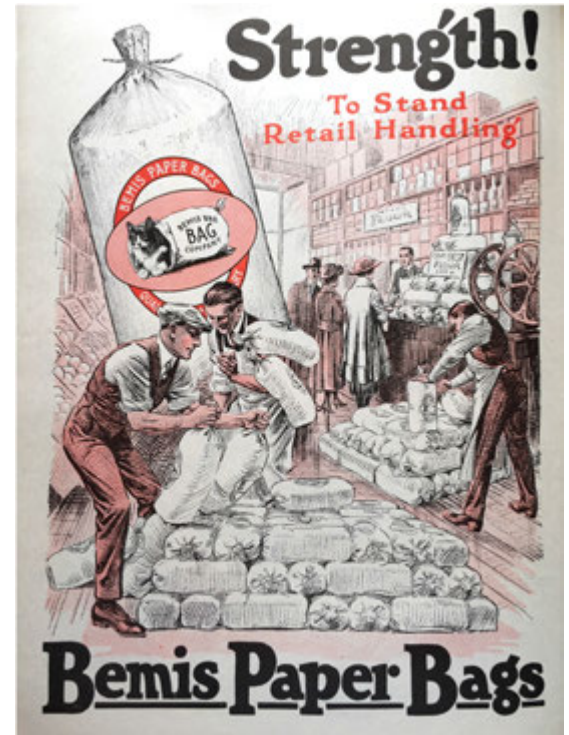
In 1927 three yards of printed cotton percale could cost 60 cents in the shop, and three yards of gingham 40 cents. In comparison, three yards of gingham, used in the Gingham Girl Flour sacks, from the George P. Milling Plant Company, would make a dress from two or three 100lb. flour bags. The flour bags were free, but required a lot of baking! These new cotton flour bags could be displayed on the retail shop shelves helping to promote each particular brand of flour.

Moving on to paper bags, it was thought that this was first used by grocery stores, who formed ordinary paper into the shape of a bag and tied it together at the top. The next step appeared to be an envelope type of bag which was glued against the leakage of flour or other powdery products. After this came the 'satchel bottom' which not only provided a tight container, but could be made to stand alone within a display. It was easily filled with a machine for this purpose and as the surface was smooth it made a better surface for the advertising of the product.

The most difficult problem was the type of paper to be used for flour. It has to be light and yet strong. The size also played an important part, bakers still however, required the larger sacks, but the average household demanded a smaller size. This of course had an impact on the mill's production line. Filling and handling of the new sizes had to be sought. Nowadays this has been perfected regardless of size of bag so from the start of the operation to the finished closed bags, all can be carried on conveyers to any point in the mill.



The adverts and images show how the marketing of the larger sacks was aimed at the customer, and one firm, Bemis, ran a series of adverts showing the strength of their bags, using their 'cat in the bag' symbol.

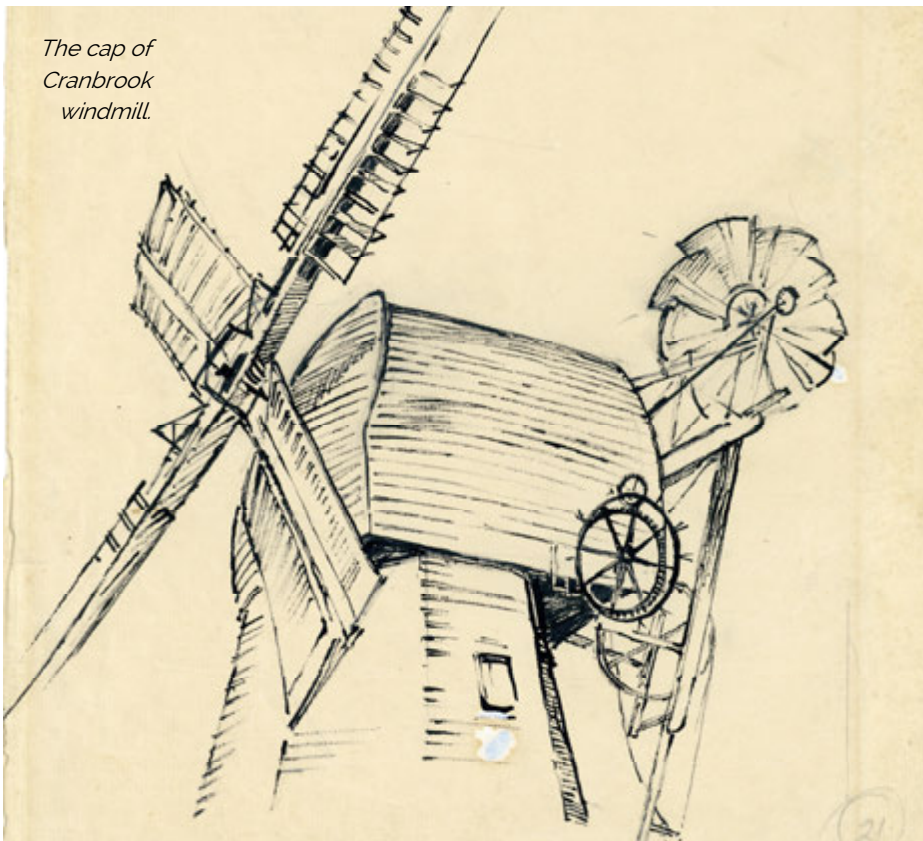


Vincent Lines Sketches

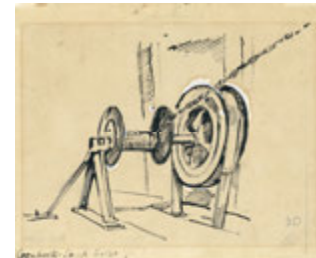
Nathanael Hodge

Recently we were delighted to be given a set of beautiful sketches by artist Vincent Lines showing Cranbrook Windmill. These were originally part of a larger set of illustrations produced by Lines for Rex Wailes' 1954 book *The English Windmill*. In 1994 the sketches related to Cranbrook were purchased by the mill from Vincent Lines' sister Mrs Clarke. Since then they have been on display at the mill, but the trustees have now decided that it would be better for the preservation of the originals to donate them to the Mills Archive and display copies in their place. We have scanned the smaller drawings and supplied copies to the mill who have mounted them in the original frames. Now the larger sketches are with the Berkshire Record Office who are digitising them for us.

We would like to thank the trustees of the Cranbrook Windmill Association for donating these beautiful artworks, and the family of Vincent Lines for giving us permission to display them.

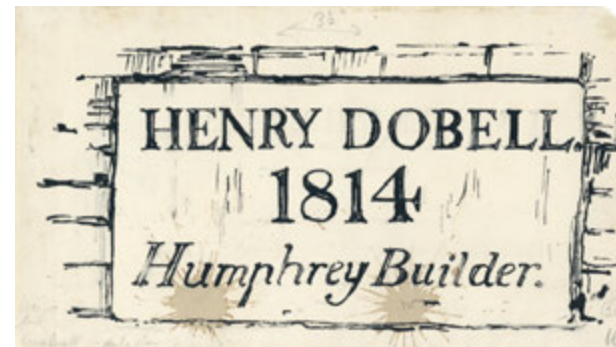


Above: John Russell, miller at Cranbrook 1918-1950. Apparently Mr Russell disliked Vincent Lines' sketches, saying they made him look 'wooden'!



Left: Sack hoist. Below left: Inscription on the mill.

Below right: Sack truck and sacks (not used in "The English Windmill").



Women Pioneers

Ron Cookson



Left to right: Cora Hind (1861-1942), Maria Christina Bruhn (1732-1808), Countess Eva Ekeblad (1724-1786).

Have you ever heard of any of these people: Tabitha Babbitt, Maria Bruhn, Eva Ekeblad, Cora Hind, Margaret Knight, Sybilla Masters, Helen Slater, Amy Smith and Maria Telkes? Their names need wider recognition as they have each made a very significant contribution to the world of mills and milling.

Pru, one of our volunteers, has been researching these women pioneers from home and uploaded their stories here: new.millsarchive.org/biographies/. So far we have nine available and Pru is working up a tenth, Betty Sullivan (1902-1999). Any suggestions for other suitable pioneers who we should acknowledge would be gratefully received!

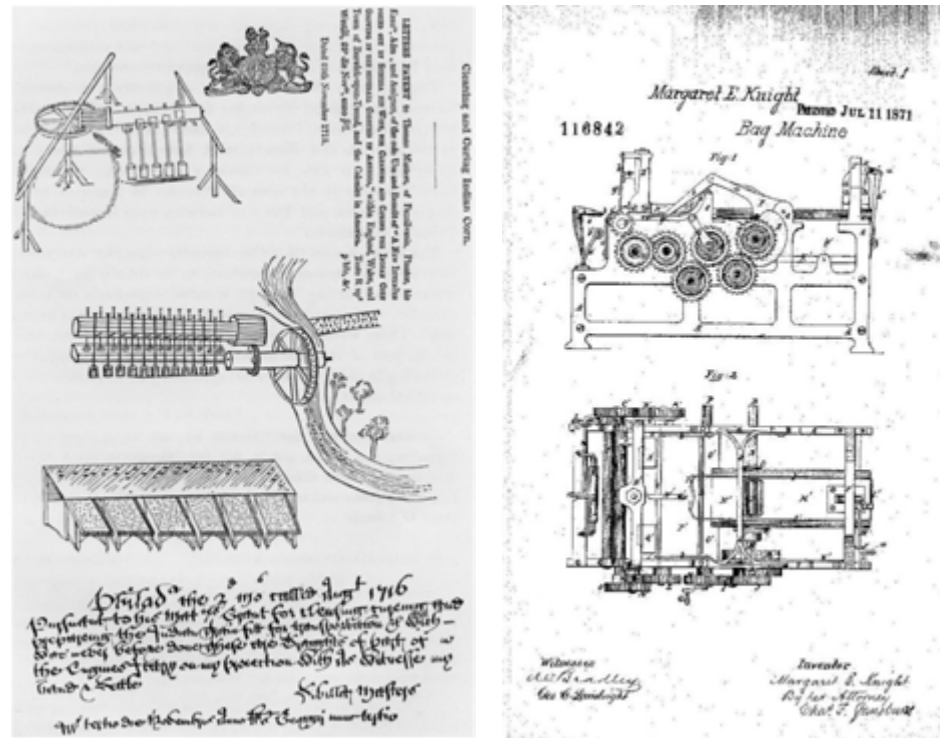
The ones we have recorded span the breadth of milling over more than three centuries, including significant contributions to saw mills, textiles and gunpowder handling as well as food processing. So frequently their role was hindered or even hidden and in some cases is still controversial. For example, an American member of the Shaker community, **Sarah Tabitha Babbitt (1779-1853)**, is believed to have invented the first circular saw for use in a sawmill between 1810 and 1813. This account has been vigorously challenged as "Shaker propaganda" and we would appreciate further information.

Sybilla Righton Masters (c 1676 -1720) can lay claim to being the first person living in the American colonies to be awarded an English patent – two in fact, and possibly the first female machinery inventor in America. Her mill pulverised corn rather than grinding it. At that time, the process for grinding corn used two large millstones. Sybilla however had seen American Indian women pound corn with wooden mallets. So, she followed on from this by inventing a mill that used hammers to make cornmeal, which was

much easier than finding, hauling and using huge millstones. It took 3 years before King George in 1715 finally awarded the patent for milling corn. But, what seems extraordinary in modern eyes, it was not granted to Sybilla – it was given to her husband, Thomas, for "a new invention found out by Sybilla, his wife".

More up to date at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, **Amy Smith (b 1962)** is an inventor, teacher and founder of MIT D-Lab and Senior Lecturer of Mechanical Engineering at MIT. She has also been described in an interview, as "a practitioner of humanitarian engineering, who wants to solve everyday problems for rural families in the developing world". Her prize-winning design for a simple, easily-constructed, hammer mill is one such example now employed in Africa.

My favourite in the list is **Margaret E Knight (1838-1914)** who made her name inventing a paper bag machine, which could automatically cut, fold and glue flat-bottomed paper bags. Up to then bags were envelope-style, with the bottoms glued together in a v-shape which limited how much the bag would hold. These flat-bottomed bags transformed the flour milling industry. An updated version of her machine was still in use at the end of the 20th century.



Above left: Letter of Patent for "Cleaning and Curing The Indian Corn". Above right: Designs for Margaret Knight's bag machine.

The End of an Era

Liz Bartram

It was with some sadness but also mutual good feeling that we said goodbye to Elizabeth Trout, who has moved on to pastures new. Elizabeth was our longest-serving employee and like most of us she joined the Trust as a volunteer. As our Information Manager, many of you will have corresponded with Elizabeth or met her at events or in our reading room.

Her involvement in the early days was crucial in establishing the Mills Archive and cementing its reputation as a helpful, professional and rich source of information.

We announced her departure in the February Friends enewsletter, in which our Chairman Dr Ron Cookson paid homage to a committed, passionate and sociable member of the team.

He recalls how Elizabeth, who began her long association with the Trust as a volunteer, brought much-needed experience in the areas of handling information and queries to the archive. Her background in family history research was invaluable in dealing with the large numbers of genealogical queries received by the archive. Elizabeth's expertise in this area enabled us to propose and complete two large grant-funded genealogical studies that now occupy more than 50 interest-filled webpages on the Mills Archive site.

Elizabeth played a key role in the Mills Archive's bid to achieve Accreditation by the National Archives and in building the impressive library at the Mills Archive. She was also instrumental in developing the Trust's volunteer and work experience programme, which eventually won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2019. Elizabeth is pictured here at the awards ceremony with other members of the Mills Archive team.



Elizabeth (front row, holding the certificate) at the Queen's Award Ceremony in 2019.

Putting the Wind Back in our Sails

Jane Freebody

Since the middle of February, as many of you will be aware, we have been making a series of appeals in our newsletter, asking our supporters to contribute to the costs of running the archive. After all the difficulties of the previous year, we needed help to "put the wind back in our sails".

The campaign takes readers on a "behind the scenes" tour of the Mills Archive, highlighting our award-winning volunteer programme; the digitisation of documents for our website; the high drama of rescuing collections before they are destroyed and the painstaking work of the conservator. All of the work we do is only possible because of the support of our Friends, to whom we are enormously grateful.



Restoration of Mountnessing post mill by Christy and Norris, millwrights, 1937.

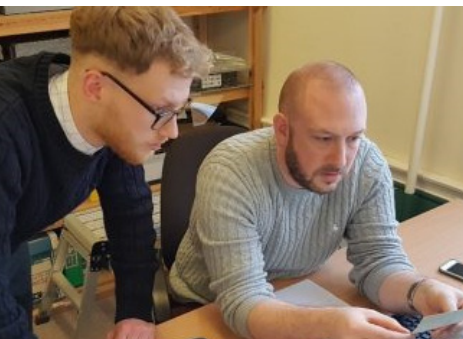
The campaign has been quite an eye-opener for our newsletter readers, many of whom had no idea of the amount of work involved in making our precious material accessible. The campaign has attracted financial support from people who have never donated to us before; this is really important as increasing the size of our family of donors improves our chances of long-term sustainability.

With the help of people like you, all the essential tasks that go on "behind the scenes" can continue, making it possible for us to share the three million milling records within our collections with you, and preserve them for future generations.

The following pages give you the flavour of the campaign. If you know of anyone who might like to support our work, please pull out this middle page section and hand it on.

Help us put the wind back in our sails...

...BY SUPPORTING OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS



We are so looking forward to welcoming back our volunteers. Their work for us, from cataloguing to creative writing, is essential to our long-term survival. Just as we have been denied their vital contribution over the past few months, they too have had to forego the benefits of working with us. Our volunteers and interns gain valuable experience; their confidence grows; they make friends and feel valued.

Help us to welcome back our volunteers; it costs us £380 a year to support a single volunteer.

...BY RESCUING AND CONSERVING OUR PRECIOUS MILLING DOCUMENTS

Thanks to our Friends and donors, we have already rescued, restored and protected over three million milling documents and images, including such treasures as the irreplaceable Rex Wailes Collection. Behind the scenes, rescue and conservation work is ongoing, enabling you to access this treasure today and in the future. Both the painstaking work of the conservator and the rapid-response mission to rescue a collection in danger of being destroyed cost money.

It costs £500 to pay for van hire, fuel and staff time to go on a two-day rescue mission.



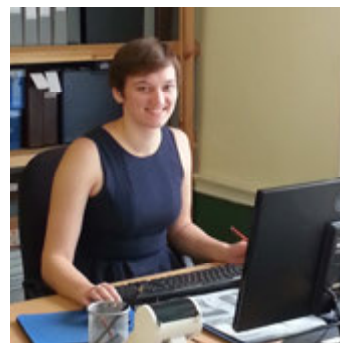
...BY KEEPING OUR RECORDS SAFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



For our "treasure trove" of stories to be preserved for future generations, we need to store everything physically in specialist packaging. The three million images and documents in our care occupy over 40 cubic metres of storage space that must be maintained at specific temperature and humidity levels. We have a disaster plan in place, just in case our treasure is damaged, and we regularly rehearse what to do in an emergency.

We spend £4,000 a year on our duty to keep our treasures safe.

...BY HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE GAIN VALUABLE SKILLS



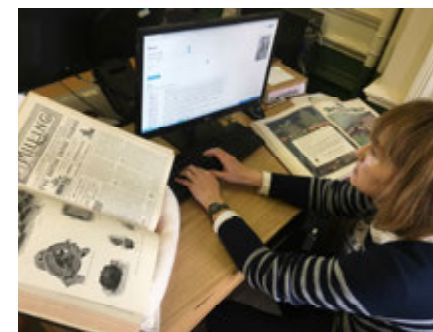
In the post-COVID world of work, young people will need to stand out from the crowd more than ever before. With your help, the Mills Archive intern programme can help them do just that. Our interns learn new, marketable skills that are valuable in any workplace, not just in an archive – working as part of a team, handling responsibility and managing projects. Help us to give young people a career boost – whilst performing vital work for the archive.

It costs us £6,350 to give one young person a full 13-week internship, providing them with equipment, support and training

...BY MAKING MORE RECORDS AVAILABLE TO YOU ONLINE

Doing more online will open up the magical world of milling to so many more individuals, wherever they live. Digitisation helps us engage a wider public all over the world. And it enables us to share more stories with you, too. We have so many new ideas: volunteers working remotely; delivering workshops online; developing webinar series to showcase our fascinating records – all need funding to progress!

We spend around £6,000 every year hosting our website and catalogue, allowing researchers around the world to access our records.



...BY SHARING OUR PASSION FOR MILLING HISTORY



We devote time and expertise to handling queries from an extraordinary range of people, from the millwright needing technical information, to the genealogist tracing her milling ancestors, to curious members of the public wanting to know more about their local mill. Our information-rich and entertaining newsletters promote a wider understanding of mills and milling and attract an audience of several thousand subscribers.

It costs us £9,000 per year to provide our information service, answering queries from millwrights, genealogists, historians and curious members of the public.

Donate today ... and help us put the wind back in our sails



£32 allows us to care for and preserve 50 records so they can be enjoyed by everyone now and in the future

£64 enables us to display 400 items on our website for one year, making them accessible remotely by researchers all over the world

£200 provides a young person with one week of training and supervision, giving them much needed work experience

£380 allows us to provide one volunteer with a work station for a whole year, enabling them to learn vital skills and us to benefit from their valuable assistance

Visit: www.millsarchive.org/wind-in-our-sails

Or send a cheque made payable to **The Mills Archive Trust**

The Mills Archive Trust, Watlington House,
44 Watlington Street, Reading RG1 4RJ

Email: friends@millsarchive.org

Registered Charity No: 1155828



Digital Discoveries

Nataliya Vine

Since March 2020, when the pandemic began in the UK, I have been digitising past issues of *Milling and Grain*, a monthly magazine by Perendale Publishers Ltd. who are patrons and general supporters of the Mills Archive. Perendale Publishers are helping us to develop our roller flour milling collections with their world-wide reach into the modern milling industry. We have worked together for many years.

My work helps to expand the information about feeding the world in order to preserve and make it available. I digitise the articles by scanning them at home and adding them to the Mills Archive Library that you can find on our website. My work is a part of the *Hidden Heroes* project funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation.



Left: An early issue of *Milling and Grain* from September 1895. Right: The March 2021 issue of *Milling and Grain*.

Milling and Grain is the successor to *Milling* and the titles have serviced the grain, feed and flour milling industries since 1891. Here you can find information about milling news around the world, new milling technologies, feed and food companies, industry profiles, market outlook, etc. The *Milling and Grain* team travel across the globe attending milling industry events, conferences, exhibitions to pass on information about innovations, projects, progress and developments in the feed and milling industry.

Thank you so much for your generosity!



The author at work.

There are several interesting columns published in each issue. One I found quite fascinating is Mildred's column "Milling journals of the past at The Mills Archive", which she started in 2014. The series of articles *Milling around the world*, *Ancient Milling in China*, *Successful Country Mills*, etc., are full of interesting facts and illustrations about wind and waterpower, muscle power, how basic milling started and survived, the first roller flour mill archive, etc.

In the Raghavan Sampathkumar Column, Sampathkumar talks about the importance of plant health in the context of food and nutritional security. He discusses its effect on farmers and food processing companies and the impacts of the plant health issue on inability of governments to control public health disasters. He also explores the discriminatory standards in implementing food quality legislations between exports and domestic consumption, which could result in reduced international trade prospects and foreign exchange earnings, or may potentially lead to economic distress due to unemployment and other related social issues. Sampathkumar also pointed out his concerns about the myths and negative publicity related to food safety issues.

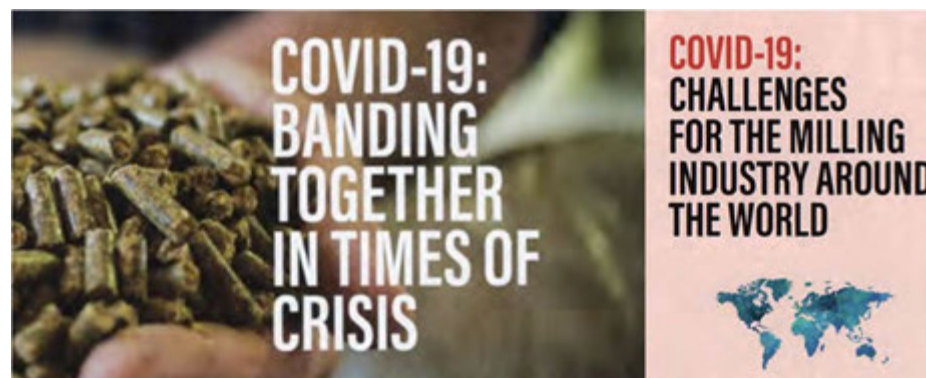
Sampathkumar is a food and agribusiness leader with a 360 degree understanding of the complex geo-political, environmental, socio-economic, techno-commercial and cultural perspectives of the agri-value food chain. You can find Raghavan

Sampathkumar's articles in the library on our website: <https://new.millsarchive.org/library/> or on the *Milling and Grain* website: <https://millingandgrain.com/magazine/>

In The Pelletier Column, Christopher Pelletier, a food and agriculture strategist and futurist from Canada, talks about an essential role of infrastructure - the lifeblood of future food security. The emergence and the development of new technologies offers an exciting new look on the future of food and agriculture. With the world's growing population, Pelletier sees a great opportunity for the feed and milling industry to lead in the future to achieve food security in the decades to come.

Pelletier comments about how temperature increase, water waste and food waste attract more and more attention toward future challenges for food production. Related to the food waste is an intriguing article about preventing bread waste - a national success story from Turkey.

When the first lockdown started in March 2020, I remember how shocked I was to see empty shelves in the supermarket when I went to buy bread and also how devastated that I couldn't buy milk for my then 3 year old daughter. Panic buying emptied supermarkets of pasta, eggs, toilet paper, yeast, flour, etc. There have been numerous articles about UK facing challenges of Covid-19.



In the May 2020 issue there is a fascinating article about UK millers working 24/7 to meet flour demand. There was "no problem in milling enough flour, but the sudden spike in demand has led to issues in physically being able to pack enough small, household bags for distribution to supermarkets...", said Alex Waugh, Director general of nabim, the trade association that recently changed its name to UK Flour Millers. "UK millers have been working around the clock - genuinely milling flour 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week to double the production of retail flour in effort to meet demand - some for the first time in their history". nabim created an online map of supermarkets and bakeries where people could buy flour. My 4 year old daughter and I have been enjoying baking a lot recently.



There is a lot of important information concerning the challenges in food production that have impacted on our health and are important to all of us. It was interesting to learn, for example, that barley has been linked to a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and high blood pressure. Increasing consumer awareness of its benefits has driven demand for more barley-based products. Ancient grains like quinoa, farro, spelt, millet, teff, amaranth, etc., are full of fibre

and protein containing healthy fats, calcium, iron, omega-3 fatty acids, zinc and other micronutrients. They have been mostly unchanged for thousand years, and today are growing in popularity in Western countries. Studies show that consumption of whole grains daily lowers risk of death from any cause and lowers risk of dying from cardiovascular disease and from cancer.

New approaches used in production of bread to increase health benefits is good news to all bread lovers (including me). Wheat flour, maize flour, and rice are most commonly fortified with iron and folic acid to reduce the risk of debilitating anaemia from nutritional deficiencies and devastating birth defects from insufficient folic acid. Evidence published in past supports the effectiveness of fortification to address these health issues. Neutralising mycotoxins, environmental toxins that pose a risk to human health.

I was totally blown away by the article I found in the April 2015 Issue about the relentless effort of The International Centre of Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) to duplicate and transport collections of seeds in extremely dangerous circumstances in 2012-2014 when Syria faced a civil war.



Dr Mahmoud Solh, Director General of ICARDA received the Gregor Mendel Innovation Prize in Berlin, one of the world's top honours for outstanding contributions to plant breeding. In the face of civil war and political insurgency, Dr Solh and his team worked meticulously under difficult conditions in Aleppo, Syria to save and transport genetic plant material to Svalbard Seed Vault in Norway. Most of the germplasm collections that have been transported are unique landraces and wild relatives of cereals and legumes, collected from Central and West Asia and the North Africa region over the past four decades. The global seed vault received 116,484 plant genetic materials from ICARDA and is serving as an insurance plan in case of a catastrophic global wipe out of crops.

"Safeguarding these genetic materials is a critical mission for ICARDA", says Dr Solh, "we are entrusted with the genetic wealth of some 128 countries – a source that we cannot afford to lose as it ensures long-term public welfare".

Feeding the World

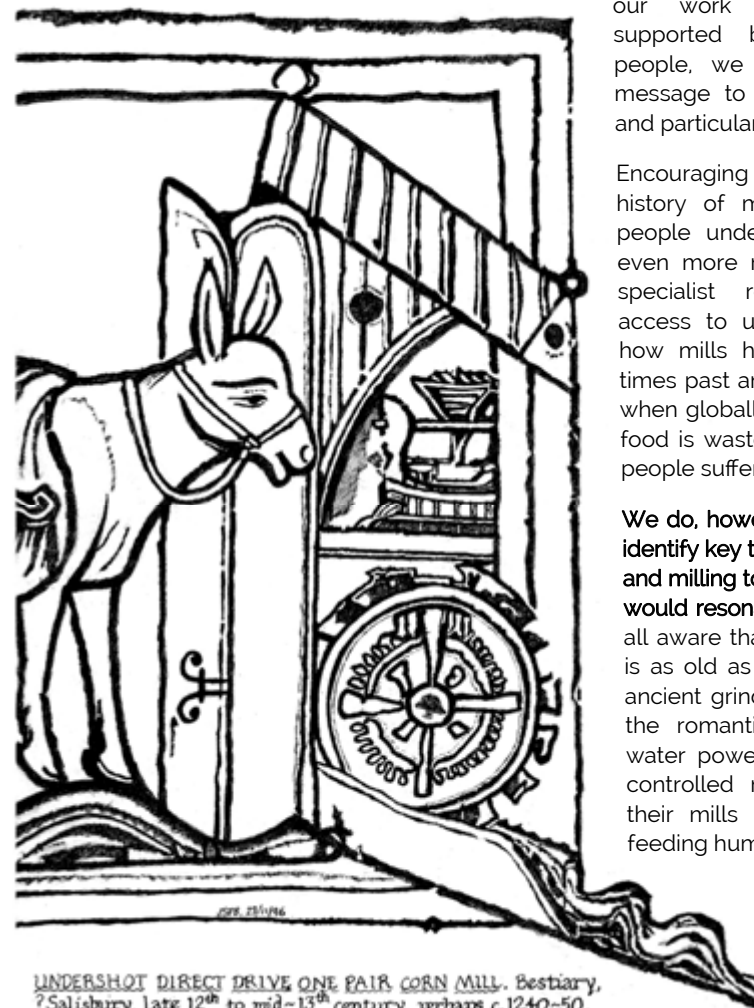
Ron Cookson

We plan to emphasise two mill-related issues of great concern to the general public as part of our digital information and education programme. These are the use of renewable energy to generate electricity and our ability to feed the world. Although

our work is recognized and supported by many mill-aware people, we want to spread our message to a much wider public and particularly to younger people.

Encouraging an interest in the history of milling will help more people understand how mills are even more relevant today. As the specialist repository, we have access to unmatched insight into how mills have fed the world in times past and their vital role today when globally more than 30% of all food is wasted and yet 840 million people suffer hunger.

We do, however, need your help to identify key themes connecting mills and milling to feeding the world that would resonate with others. We are all aware that the history of milling is as old as civilisation itself. From ancient grinding stones, by way of the romantic uses of wind and water power to today's computer controlled machines, millers and their mills have been central to feeding humanity.



UNDERSHOT DIRECT DRIVE ONE PAIR CORN MILL. Bestiary, ?Salisbury, late 12th to mid-13th century, perhaps c.1240-50.

Above: Copy of a drawing of a medieval watermill from a late 12th - mid 13th-century manuscript showing an undershot waterwheel driving a single pair of stones (Drawing JSP Buckland, Mills Archive Collection, JSPB-ODR-403-141).



Above: Queen's Mill, Castleford in West Yorkshire. The number of stones at Queen's Mill was increased from 6 to 20 pairs during the Second World War, making it the largest stone grinding mill in the world. The mill closed in 2010. (Photo M Watts, Mills Archive Collection MWAT-033).

Hayden, one of our volunteers, wrote:

"There needs to be a healthy balance of information that will interest mill enthusiasts but also appeal to those who may not have considered the role which milling plays in feeding the world. Where is the happy medium in this? How do we engage new people and keep our faithful audience interested?"

Each theme should deliberately challenge ignorance and complacency, underlining that history is never about the past, it is about us today. By highlighting relevant Trust holdings we can emphasise the fundamental roles that mills will have in every individual's future. For example, we have gathered reports on how Covid-19 has impacted milling's ability to feed our nation and how romantic traditional mills and the modern large-scale factories have responded.

Possible themes we could introduce are listed below. Which would you prefer? Do you have other suggestions?

Muscle Power is still important in some parts of the world, for example in some parts of modern Asia women still use querns.

Water Power removed the need for manual labour – or did it? Watermills were the first "heavy industry"; not everybody regarded them as progress. What about romantic watermills in art & literature?

"Cease your work you maidens who laboured at the mill... Ceres has commanded the water nymphs to do your work, obedient to her call, they throw themselves onto the whirling spokes, force round the shaft, and thus the heavy mill"

Antipater of Thessalonica

Wind Power is a lot more flexible than water power; mills are easier to build and do not need rivers and there is widespread use for irrigation and for land drainage.

Rice, wheat and other cereals Different cereals resulted in different approaches. Contrast early Chinese milling, which subsequently stagnated, with continuing development in and beyond the Mediterranean basin.

Brown or White Bread?

"Browne bread made of the coarsest of wheat having in it moch branne, fylleth the belly with excrements, and shortly descendeth from the stomacke"

Thomas Cogan, *The Haven of Health, made for the comfort of Students...* (1584)

Slavery and exploitation - colonial sugar plantations; the role of women and cultural perspectives; the feudal system and the English peasant.

Computers and information management the digital mill as the epitome of industrial efficiency and the loss of practical skills. Food safety, nutrition and fortification

Give us the ideas and we will develop them!



Albion Mill, Blackfriars, London, the world's first steam-powered flour factory (Mills Archive Collection, MWAT-018).

Liz, in a recent presentation stated

"The story of milling gives us the opportunity to address fundamental issues for society as a whole as well as specific individuals and certain communities. The history of milling, with its heroes, disasters and triumphs, will surprise and enchant people, many of whom may then be inspired to spread the word."

Our professional team have been laying the groundwork for a wide-ranging "Thread of Life" programme, based on how central mills and milling are and were to each individual and the development of civilisation. No other archive enables people to use milling as a lens to learn about society and what makes us human. We help to save the memories of an important part of our agricultural and engineering heritage, empowering people to share their reminiscences.

"No other single thread of development can be followed so continuously throughout history, nor any which bears so constant a cause-and-effect relation to every phase of our progress in civilization."

Stork & Teague, *Flour for Man's Bread* (1954)

We are particularly keen to cover history from the perspective of people in classical times to modern individuals, depicting the changes they made and their impact on humanity's hopes for the future. Examples could range from the humble windmill to the integrated grain processing companies. By introducing contemporary elements, such as the way we anticipated the need to record the impact of coronavirus on feeding the nation, we support future generations to learn from our experiences, the opportunities and challenges.

Recording current events is part of our duty as the national repository for the history of milling. As well as archival items, the library contains much that will be digitised. For example Nataliya's work digitising last year's issues of *Milling & Grain* has doubled our library content tagged with our "feeding the world" topic. This growing body of scanned articles is freely available to download at new.millsarchive.org/library/

Typical PDFs from Nataliya's work

1. A brief history of grain storage
2. Agriculture in Japan
3. Covid-19 and food security, revisiting the pyramid, grandma and other things
4. Covid-19, New Zealand flour industry endures Covid-19
5. Covid-19, UK millers working 24/7 to meet flour demand
6. Flour milling booms in China
7. The whole grain flour
8. Thomas Allinson. The doctor and miller struck off for advocating healthy eating
9. Wheat flour fortification in Egypt during a pandemic

The windmill at Lacey Green, Buckinghamshire which was built c.1650 is believed to be England's oldest surviving smock mill (Drawing K Wood, Mills Archive Collection, WOOD-M235)



Keeping in touch

We are very grateful to you for your support, which is needed now more than ever. Unfortunately we are still unable to accommodate visits to the Mills Archive.

But our website and online catalogue remain freely available, and in addition to receiving this newsletter twice a year you can also receive our weekly updates on a variety of topics – why not sign up using our newsletter subscription form? You can find the form here: millsarchive.org/register-interest

You can also contact us by email at friends@millsarchive.org or write to us at

The Mills Archive Trust
Watlington House
44 Watlington Street
Reading RG1 4RJ
United Kingdom

Our promise to you is to continue to safeguard the history of milling, and to share the stories, facts and photographs with you.

Thank you for your support and we wish you and your loved ones well.

Visit our website and blog: millsarchive.org

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The Friends of the Mills Archive

The Friends of the Mills Archive are dedicated to aiding the work of the Mills Archive Trust.

As a Friend you are supporting us in our goal to preserve, protect and promote one of the world's great mill collections, ensuring its continuing care and free availability to the public and other academic institutions.



"Whether it's acquiring and protecting new collections, training volunteers or running outreach projects in the local community, none of it is possible without the help of our Friends of the Archive."

– Dr Ron Cookson, Chairman of the Mills Archive Trust

We highly value new members, and extend a warm welcome to everyone: family, local and national historians as well as to those who simply want to find out more about our milling heritage. If you're not already, now is your chance to get involved: become our Friend.

For more information write to the address opposite, email us at friends@millsarchive.org or complete the online form on our website at: <https://millsarchive.org/friend/register>

"I am very proud to be a Friend of the Mills Archive ... It works tirelessly to liberate important historic material and has grown exponentially ... The Mills Archive will always be an institution which is very close to my heart."

– James, Friend of the Mills Archive



Front cover: Restoration of Mountnessing post mill by Christy and Norris, millwrights, 1937.

Rear cover: Fantail of Cranbrook mill, drawn by Vincent Lines.

