

1. The 1611 deed conveyed property from Sir John Ashburnham not to him. (This is a proof reading error: my sincere apologies to Martin Brunnarius - GGT).
2. The Ashburnham furnace was tapped for the last time in February 1813, see Newsletter No.39. This date is now accepted by all concerned. (Martin Brunnarius states that he was quoting Straker with his date of 1808, and is quite willing to accept February 1813.)

TALL CHIMNEY HERITAGE - SEE NEWSLETTER No.55

The secretary of the Tall Chimney Working Party has now provided our Gen. Hon. Secretary with further details of the aims of the working party.

He asks for details relating to buildings which are included on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural and/or historic interest, which is prepared by the Secretary of State for the Environment and which classifies buildings into Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II.

Anyone who is prepared to undertake this task should contact Ron Martin.

PLACELANDS WATER TOWER, EAST GRINSTEAD

The Placelands water tower, East Grinstead (N.G.R. TQ 393384), an early (1912) example of re-inforced concrete construction, was demolished in July 1987. A brief illustrated account of it was published in Concrete in August 1982.

M.J. LEPPARD

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

New Members

- Mr L.B. Done, Hanlye Farm Cottage, Hanlye Lane, Cuckfield, W.Sussex RH17 5HR
(0444-455902)
- Mr P. Garnham, Bartley Mill, Bells Yew Green, Nr. Frant, E.Sussex. 0892-890372

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- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
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| Central Area | J.S.F. Blackwell, 21 Hythe Road, Brighton BN1 6JR (0273) 557674 |
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- B. Austen, Brig. A.E. Baxter, D.H. Cox, I. Dean, F.W. Gregory, E.W. Henbery, P.J. Holtham, G.E.F. Mead, R.M. Palmer, G.G. Thomerson, M.F. Tighe.

Copy for the Newsletter should be sent to:

G.G. Thomerson, 42 Gander Hill, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1RD (0444) 450722

PLEASE NOTE Latest acceptance date for copy for the April Newsletter is 16th MARCH 1988



SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

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JANUARY 1988

CHIEF CONTENTS

- Annual Reports - Gen. Hon. Sec. and Treasurer
- Area Secretaries' Reports
- Report on Hurricane Damage to Mills
- Industrial Archaeology - Indian Style
- Printing Exhibition at Chalk Pits Museum
- Ifield Water Mill

DIARY DATES

- Tuesday, 8th March. Joint meeting with Chichester Museum Society. Lecture "The Development of the Chalk Pits Industrial History Museum, Amberley" by the Director, Mr Ian Dean, at Chichester District Council Offices, East Pallant, Chichester. Contact Alan Allnutt, Chichester 786044 if site plan of venue location required.
- Saturday, 12th March. South East Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference (SERIAC) Subject: "Extractive Industries". Venue: University of Surrey, Guildford. Registration 9.45-10.25 a.m. Fee £6 to include tea & coffee. Lunch available at extra charge from the University cafeteria. Visits arranged for Sunday 13th March. Please contact Ron Martin for application forms.
- Thursday, 17th March. "An Evening with David Shepherd" at the Horsham Arts Centre 7.30 p.m. See separate note.
- Friday/Sunday, 18-20th March. AIA Affiliated Societies Weekend, Ironbridge - see separate note.
- Sunday, 20th March, 11.00 a.m. Working Party at Coultershaw Pump. Map reference SU 972194. How about a better turn out than last year when only committee members and family turned up? This is the only property that our Society is responsible for, that is open to the public. We make a little money on admission charges, and could make more if the site were improved. Bring packed lunch or if you prefer there is a good pub, which provides food, down the road. Please help.
- Saturday, 9th April. Chatham Historic Dockyard. Special Day of talks and guided tour. Admission strictly by ticket only. Price £2.50. Cheques payable to CKA. Application to Council for Kentish Archaeology, 5 Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, Kent, BR4 9DL.
- Sunday, 10th April, 2.30 p.m. Tour of East Grinstead. Meet at the Constitutional Building at the west end of the High Street, East Grinstead for a walk led by Rob Michell around the town centre. Not particularly I.A. but plenty of interest. Contact M. Tighe 0342 822003.
- Saturday, 21st April, 2.30 p.m. I.A. in the Midhurst area. Vic Mitchell will take us around places of interest. Meet in the North Street Car Park at 2.00 p.m. MR SU 888218. Still come if wet as Vic could possibly be persuaded to show some films. Contact J. Blackwell 0273 557674.
- Wednesday, 15th June, 2.30 p.m. Visit to Shoreham Cement Works. Visit limited to 15 people so please book a place with Ron Martin on 0273 33805. Meet at main entrance.
- Friday, 24th June. Members' Evening 7.00 p.m. at Michelham Priory. See next newsletter for details.

Saturday, 16th July, 10.30 a.m. All day visit to Steyning led by J. Sleight. Talk on history of the area. Walk around the town and visit to the water mill. Bring packed lunch or sample the local pubs which do good food. Contact D. Cox 0403 711137. Send SAE for Factsheet.

Saturday, 24th September, 10.30. Visit to I.A. sites in the Surrey area (mainly in the Guildford vicinity). Details in the next newsletter.

Saturday, 19th November, 2.30. Annual General Meeting. Held at the Friends Centre, Friars Walk, Lewes.

Please note that Don Cox has assumed the role of co-ordinator of visits and no longer arranges them (bar one). Please contact the person named against each visit for further details, and let him know beforehand if you will be attending.

In addition to the above there is an exhibition at the Brighton Polytechnic Art Gallery, Grand Parade, Brighton, open free from 11th March to 6th April. This is a double exhibition on "Experience of Aerial Flight", and "To fly in style 1930-8", particularly related to South East airports.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT - 1986/87

When the time comes round each year to give the Society my annual report on the activities of the past year it is always my hope that I will have good news to give you. This year things have not been as happy as they might have been. However we have continued to do our best for the Industrial Archaeology of the county.

With the Society's own projects we have had a reasonable year. At Coultershaw there has been a good season with a reasonable number of visitors. The new sluice is ready for fitting.

At Poyntz Bridge the decking and handrails have been partly fitted.

At Itfield Mill both sides of the launder have been replaced and machinery is being fitted and the wheel is now able to turn. There have been about 700 visitors to the mill this season. A chair lift for disabled persons has been obtained and has now been installed.

With regard to I.A. sites not directly under the control of the Society, the storm that took place on the night of Friday, October 16th, has caused considerable damage, particularly to windmills which tend to be very vulnerable to high winds and this damage has been listed elsewhere in this issue.

At Clayton, Jill Mill work has been proceeding in the installation of the tail stones.

At High Salvington Mill two sweeps have been fitted and two more are ready for erection.

At Oldland Mill a new trestle has been fitted and the old crown tree removed.

At Cross-in-Hand Mill work is proceeding and new shears are being made.

At Polegate Mill the cap was craned off in August and put back in October and the fantail assembly is being re-built by Thompsons the millwrights from Lincolnshire. A new curb has been cast by Rye Foundry and installed.

At Shipley Mill there is a lot of work needing to be carried out. The cap will need to be fitted and the curb attended to and three cant post replaced. Estimates are being obtained for this work.

At West Blatchington Mill work has been carried out this year in strengthening three cant posts and replacing weather-boarding on counter battening and telting.

At Lowfield Heath Mill contracts have been placed and the mill was dismantled in July and is now in store pending restoration. Building Regulation Approval has been obtained for re-erection.

Unfortunately at Argos Hill the amount of land acquired with the mill was inadequate and the adjoining owner has now erected fences which prevent the mill from operating.

This past year there seem to have been a spate of demolitions and application for demolition of industrial buildings. It is all very depressing and reinforces the comment that it is up to this Society to try to prevent the loss of our heritage or at least to make sure that these sites which are at risk are properly recorded. It is only by having a proper and complete record that the Society is enabled to make recommendations to the Planning Authorities about endangered sites.

The Society has had a good programme of visits and meetings throughout the year. This commenced with a working party at Coultershaw with limited attendance but when a useful amount of work was achieved prior to the start of the season. The visit to Rye was well attended and included a visit to the Rye Foundry. In May, Frank Gregory led a tour of various mills in West Sussex and in June several members attended the launch of the Book on the History of Gatwick Airport at the Beehive Terminal. The Members' evening was held at the Chairman's farm at Heron's Ghyll and included a talk on the Rye Foundry. In July there was a very interesting visit to Rudgwick Brickworks and in August we visited Emisworth at the very far west of the county and over the border into Hampshire. The visit to the Bluebell Railway was poorly attended but was very worthwhile. We are very grateful to Don Cox for the time and enthusiasm he has put into ensuring that we have a lively and varied programme and to the various members who have helped to organise visits.

The Society's publications have continued to maintain their high standard. Sussex Industrial History No.16 - the special issue "Gatwick - The Evolution of an Airport" written by John King and printed by Gatwick Airport has been very successful with a lot of outside interest, all the postal sales being handled by the Society. Sussex Industrial History No.17 was published in July. Our Editor Brian Austen is to be commended on the excellence of these publications and Gordon Thomerson for his work in editing the Newsletter.

The Brick Study Group under the direction of Molly Beswick has now prepared a third of the Gazetteer of sites for ultimate publication and it is thanks to several devoted members, particularly to Geoff Mead and to the late Barbara Glaisyer, that work is proceeding steadily.

The Society continues to maintain links with other Societies and organisations. We are affiliated to the Association for Industrial Archaeology and Michael Bevan and I attended a weekend conference at Ironbridge in March. The Annual Conference in Bath was attended by about a dozen of our members and a most enjoyable and rewarding time was had by all. As one of the organising Societies of the South Eastern Industrial Archaeology Conferences we partake in the Annual Conference which this year was held in London on the subject of "Twentieth Century Industrial Archaeology". Liaison with Sussex Archaeology Society and with Subterranea Britannica are also maintained by representation from our Society on their Committees. We also have a direct link with the Chalk Pits Museum as Ian Dean, the Director, serves on our Committee.

The major task of recording all the I.A. Sites in Sussex is proceeding but slowly. Certain areas are being done but there is still a crying need for more members to come forward with sufficient interest and motivation to complete the task. We have set up the framework for the depositing of photographic material in our archives and if any members have anything suitable would they please get in touch with Peter Holtham.

In spite of all the gloom in the first part of my report the Society has continued to maintain its status and to do excellent work. It is thanks to the various Members and Officers of the Society that this work continues. We do our best and are open to any suggestions for improvement in the scope and quality of the Society's activities.

R.G. MARTIN

TREASURER'S REPORT

In presenting the accounts for this year I am glad to be able to say that your Society is in good financial shape.

First, as regards income, our tax refund on covenanted subscriptions has increased to £180 notwithstanding the reduced level of income following the change in our banking arrangements. This is a valuable source of income to the Society at no extra cost to members. Receipts from visitors to Coultershaw continue to increase, up nearly £80 to £285, and this of course is produced from fortnightly opening during the summer months only. Our West Sussex Secretary badly needs people to help at Coultershaw during these open days.

Regarding sales of literature we received Royalties of £243 following sales of the Field Guide, copies of which are still available. As to Sussex Industrial History No.16, as members will know this issue was published in conjunction with Gatwick Airport Ltd who generously paid for the whole of the printing costs and provided us free of charge with copies for issue to our members. In addition we have sold copies on their behalf outside our membership and on these they have allowed us to retain one third of the gross sales income which has amounted, up to 30th September, to £567.

As to our expenditure, our duplicating and printing and postal costs have increased substantially because of the change in banking arrangements at the beginning of the year. I hope that our costs in this regard will return to normal next year and may I particularly request any member whose standing order for their subscription is still operating in favour of Lloyds Bank, Kempdown to ensure that it is altered to the Midland Bank, Worthing.

As to membership we have had twelve new members during the year, as against 21 last year. This is not sufficient to replace our natural losses from deaths and resignations and there are still eight members who have not yet paid their current subscriptions.

Finally, I would like to thank on behalf of the Committee, members and myself, our Honorary Auditor, Mr George Martin, for his work.

J.M.H. BEVAN

AREA SECRETARIES' REPORTS

WESTERN AREA

Coultershaw Pump

The 1987 season ended with record numbers of visitors on Open Days and we are very grateful to all those members and friends who gave their time to make Coultershaw more interesting and attractive for the visitors.

Mercifully the building emerged unscathed from the great storm last October.

By the time this Newsletter is published we shall be frantically preparing, probably in spite of frost and flood, to be ready for opening again in April. Meanwhile essential maintenance work is proceeding, but with generally only 3 or 4 people at work, progress is slow. Volunteers please! (though we do not wish to deprive our colleagues in the Northern Area - see page 3 of the last Newsletter). For details, phone Alan Allnutt on Chichester 786044 or Michael Palmer on Worthing 505626.

MICHAEL PALMER

NORTHERN AREA

Ifield Mill

We are pleased to report that the stair lift has been installed and this will enable easy access to the first floor for all ages.

The winter period is when we take the opportunity to carry out repairs and the launder sides have been replaced in oak and adjacent timberwork repaired. It has become very apparent that, in a fully working mill, a considerable amount of day to day maintenance was necessary in addition to the main task of grinding grain.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a short account of repairs carried out in the 1920s. This account was forthcoming as a result of a visitor to the mill passing on a copy of a letter from a relative.

Lowfield Heath Windmill

During the severe storm of the 15th/16th October this mill was surely the safest in the south-east! But for being tucked safely away at Charlwood it most certainly would have been blown down or badly damaged. To have dismantled the mill within three months of the worst storms for 300 years must be rated as a 'close shave'.

Work by the volunteers has been progressing on cleaning and preserving timbers and cleaning and painting ironwork. Jean Shelley is doggedly cleaning bricks and would welcome any offers of assistance (Tel: Crawley 862646).

It is hoped that during the winter, arrangements can be finalised regarding foundations for the roundhouse on its new site and that re-erection can commence.

TED HENBERY

REPORT ON DAMAGE TO MILLS IN SUSSEX RESULTING FROM THE STORM OF 16th OCTOBER, 1987

Jill Mill at Clayton

The tailpole and steps have been displaced. The sails started to turn against the brake and a fire started which, thanks to the vigilance of a neighbour who called for help was put out without causing serious damage. The brake and brake wheel are badly burnt, the fantail blades are all damaged beyond repair and there is minor damage to weatherboarding and sweeps. There was water damage to grain in hoppers. It is hoped to have all repairs complete and back to grinding in 18 months. (See separate report.)

High Salvington Mill

No storm damage to the mill but trees which would have shielded the mill and made working difficult have now been uprooted.

Winchelsea Mill

This post mill, which had little internal machinery was completely toppled and destroyed with bits scattered over the field. The National Trust which owns it have as yet no plans for re-erection.

Oldland Mill

There is minor damage to the weatherboarding.

Nutley Post Mill

The wedges at the foot of the post had shaken free and the post been displaced and tilted but it was prevented from falling by the heel of the ladder digging in. Two horns at the foot of the post have broken off. It is hoped repairs will be completed in time for the beginning of next season.

Rottingdean Mill

One sail has been broken at the end of the stock.

Shipleigh Mill

The fantail assembly has been damaged and there is minor damage to the sail shutters.

West Blatchington Mill

There was minor internal damage to the mill caused by strain on steel tie bars.

Argos Hill Mill

The fantackle and two sails have been destroyed and there is considerable damage to the weatherboarding.

Lowfield Heath Mill

Quite fortuitously this mill was dismantled in July and is at present in store pending restoration and re-erection next year. It is doubtful if it would have survived the storm.

1987: JILL SURVIVES THE HURRICANE

On October 16th 1987 a severe hurricane hit the South of England. One of the storm's victims was Jill Windmill. Simon Potter recalled the events of that night.

5 a.m. at Clayton Windmills, Mrs Vera Deering, worried that the storm outside may blow in the windows of the house, wakes her husband Robert, and asked him to check that all is well. As he looks out of the window he sees a stream of sparks, rather like comets and realises that they are coming from Jill Windmill. He rushes to the telephone to ring me.

The message was terrifyingly simple "Jill windmill is on fire". I hurriedly telephoned two other members of the society before setting out. Outside, I met my neighbour Peter Chandler and told him the news. Driving up to the windmills was impossible, trees blocked the lane in both directions. It was clear that the only way to the mills would be on foot.

At this time of the morning it was still dark and I could only see thirty yards ahead. The higher I climbed, the more difficult it became to progress forward, on a number of occasions I was blown over by the gale. Halfway up the hillside I passed a piece of white timber which I recognised as being one of Jill's shutters. Soon I could see the "comets" of sparks in the sky ahead of me. The wind must have been blowing at around 120 mph, standing upright became impossible, and I was forced to crawl the last 50 yards or so on my hands and knees. Upon reaching the car park, I threw myself over the fence into the shelter of our site hut, the noise of the gale was almost deafening.

I fought my way against the gale and up Jill's steps, I reached up to the door and realised that the steps had come adrift from the mill body, but still managed to reach the padlock and open the door. The sweeps were turning despite the fact that the brakewheel had been chocked and that the brakelever had been pegged down. I quickly released the brake. The mill had started to fill with smoke as a result of the friction between the brake shoe and the brakewheel. A bucket of ash is kept on this floor for just such an emergency: it should provide sufficient grip when the brake is applied.

Robert Deering had left his wife in the house and joined me in the mill. We applied some ash and we lowered the brake. Sparks flew off the brakewheel in all directions, but the sweeps showed no sign of stopping. A second attempt also failed. We rushed outside and grabbed some buckets which we filled with gravel from his garden. At this point Peter Chandler appeared through the dark and helped us to carry the buckets. Inside, we tried again to stop the sweeps, then we noticed that there was a glow from the front corner of the mill, and that the body of Jill was on fire. I rushed to a fire extinguisher and pushed the plunger - only a trickle came out!

Water became the next priority, while I continued to try and stop the sweeps Robert and Peter ran back to the house and started to ferry buckets of water up to the mill.

Martin Brunnarius, whom I had phoned earlier, had left his home in Burgess Hill immediately, but due to fallen trees the journey to Clayton took over an hour and a half. He parked his car at the foot of the Downs and climbed the hill to join us. Together we at last managed to stop the sweeps.

The mill body continued to glow so more water was required, this was drawn from the water tank by Jill [which we had overlooked earlier!!] and was poured down on to the glowing timbers from the bin floor.

At this point we discovered that the telephones were not working: how lucky we were that they had been at 5 a.m.

The rest of the day was spent clearing up the mess. A number of people came to the mill later expecting to see smouldering ruins. Bad news travels fast - one local radio station had been announcing that Jill Windmill had burned to the ground!!!

Jill windmill is so lucky to have such good friends who care so much about her. Without the brave help of Robert, Peter and Martin, that radio station could well have been right.

In addition to the fire, Jill sustained considerable damage elsewhere. One stair hinge

came adrift whilst the fantackle was still active, breaking the handrail, cracking the top three treads, dragging the steps round and entrenching its wheels in the ground. Later three fanblades were blown off and the other two were damaged beyond repair. The tailpole tenon and its mortise were damaged along with some of the weatherboarding: surprisingly the stocks and sweeps survived. A repair programme is in hand, and Jill will be grinding again. SIMON POTTER (Jill Windmill Society)

IFIELD WATER MILL

A further small piece of the history of Ifield Water Mill has recently come to light.

In 1920 Sidney Blake, a Norfolk born 20-year-old, after being demobilised from the 28th London Regiment (Artists Rifles), tried several careers and was then apprenticed by his father for £100 to the East Anglian Agricultural Engineering Company in Kings Lynn. This firm made agricultural wagons and tumbrils and put bodies on lorries and vans. There were four working partners and two apprentices.

After three months the firm went bankrupt but the senior partner, Mr Millings, found work for himself and the two apprentices, Mr Blake and Eric Stemberidge. They went to Charlwood in Surrey to work for Mr Beckhuson, a wealthy stockbroker who owned Ifield Water Mill.

"Mr Beckhuson had an ex-army workshop set up specially for us and huge stocks of ex-government oak timber for us to use. Our first task was to set up shafting and gearing to drive a circular saw, all being driven by an "Overtime" tractor installed in the corner of the workshop.

The reason for our being there and all this preparation was that Mr Beckhuson owned a water-driven flour mill at Ifield, three miles away just over the border in Sussex. Apparently other firms had seen what had to be done and turned it down. The mill required a new water wheel and also new sluice gates."

They set about this task by letting the 10-foot head of water go until it was "down to a reasonable level" and then put in a V-shaped dam to control it while they took out the old gates.

During the winter they made the new sluice gates and the materials for the water wheel. The brackets and buckets were made to their specification by a Horsham firm.

At the end of February 1921 a labourer was hired and the four men renewed the water wheel and the sluice gates. They also "put a new ground floor in the mill (after clearing out a century or two's rat dirt and meal) which was 3 feet deep under the old floor, repaired oak posts 18 inches square and well plates which had been eaten through by rats, and felled fir trees and horse chestnut trees growing on the bank because the water was following the roots through".

While this work was going on the men also worked on Mr Beckhuson's timber framed house in Charlwood, exposing the oak rafters and making new oak doors. The apprentices were paid £2.10s. (£2.50) a week.

In July this period of Mr Blake's life came to an end when he left Surrey to train as a schoolteacher.

We know that the mill never worked at full capacity again and ceased work altogether in 1925. Mr Beckhuson died in 1920 and the mill was sold by Mary Beckhuson in 1925.

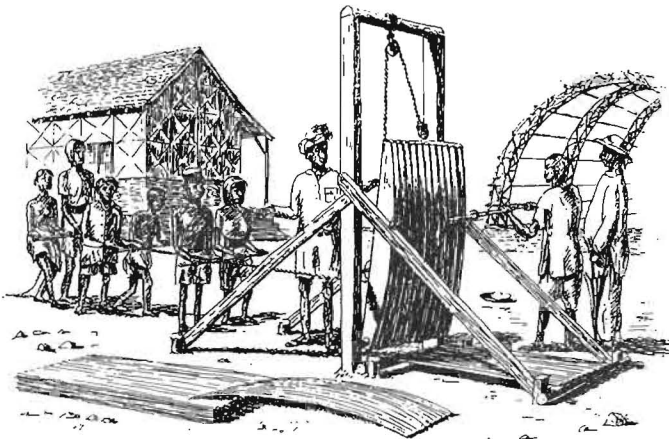
All the machinery was sold as scrap metal during the Second World War. All Mr Blake's water wheel brackets and buckets had long since disappeared when the Ifield Mill Project took over in 1974, and their renewal by the team took two years of Sunday-morning work.

PAT BRACHER

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY - INDIAN STYLE

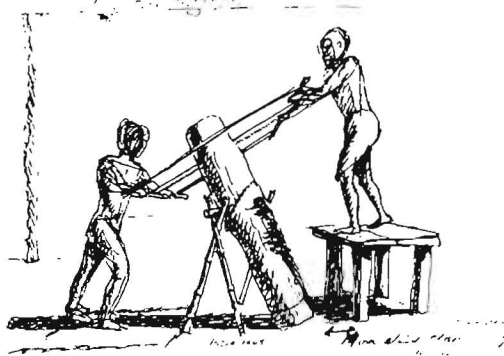
Members will be interested and amused by the following contribution and accompanying sketches although far from Sussex I.A.

I was in the RE in India in 1945 where aircraft hangers were being erected. No timber over 3ft long was available (from which the curved trusses were made up - I believe the purlins were steel), and the corrugated iron sheets with the device shown in my sketch. Railway sleepers were cut to the curve, and fitted side by side and one sheet of metal forcibly nailed to the curved face. By dropping this heavy weight on a flat sheet, a curved sheet was produced. An alternative method was by using a large, heavy garden roller over a sheet, the baked ground having been shaped to the required curve below.



Bending Corrugated Steel Sheetings - Kalyan - 20/4/45

that! The Indians were very adept at making jobs - hence it took 8 people plus the General Foreman with the umbrella (who came into the picture when he saw an Army group looking on), to do the job. In the carpenter's shop on the site, I saw a man using an old-fashioned jack-plane on a bench. He had an assistant with a rope and 2 toggles standing at the other end of the bench, pulling the plane as the other one pushed! Notwithstanding there were modern tools in the workshop, another man was seated on the floor, using a bow-drill to bore holes in wood. Pay was very low, but it meant that more people were employed - enough just to keep the wolf from the door.



The sawing sketch merely shows how timber was converted (not at the same site as the log is more than 3ft long).

ERIC HOLDEN

PRINTING EXHIBITION, AMBERLEY CHALK PITS MUSEUM, JUNE 20-29, 1987

The printing press, developed from the wine press in 1456, and capable of reproducing the written word an infinite number of times, is arguably among the first mass production machines to be invented in Europe. With its invention arose the industry of printing which today ranks no.7 in the UK and whose printing presses come remarkably high on the list of "heavy" machinery.

Since there is no industry which is not touched by the product of the printing press, it seemed logical that an exhibition demonstrating the range and diversity of printing presses and production methods would not come amiss in an industrial museum. For almost a year, leading up to June 20th the printing team at the museum worked upon the project.

They collected a very impressive list of supporters from the industry and in the end more than 50 exhibitors were involved. These ranged from the Technical Colleges, local newspapers, trade organisations, local printers, and manufacturers of ink, paper and machinery. Display material came from the Printing Technological Institute in Beijing, China, the Oriental Studies Department of Cambridge University, the Senefelder Lithographic Foundation and the Gutenberg Printing Museum, Mainz, West Germany.

Alas! the plans of mice and men ... ! we hardly need to be reminded of the diabolical weather conditions which persisted throughout May and most of June. Although four marquees were hired to house the exhibits, only the largest proved capable of withstanding the onslaughts of wind and rain. So the final week of preparation had to be devoted to scaling down and re-siting the various exhibits. Thanks to the superhuman efforts of members of the Museum staff and volunteers, every inch of usable space under cover was brought into use, and by June 20th the replanned exhibition was ready to open.

The Gods were kind! The Saturday Opening Day dawned hot and clear, and the exhibition was duly launched by the County Librarian, Mr Roy Huse. In the large marquee visitors could watch hand-drawn lithographs being printed direct from the stone by Pia Knapp of the Olympia Press. An early Albion lever press kindly loaned by Ackfords of Chichester was producing print in the same manner as William Caxton had done in 1476. Some keen young printers from Eltham School demonstrated their printing abilities on a table-top Albion press kindly loaned by Moore and Tillyer of Chichester. The intaglio 'engraved' printing process was demonstrated by Mrs Macdonald Ralph and Mrs Catherine Rees-Jones, who also showed the method of making relief prints from linocuts. Edward Poole of The Bay Studios, Littlehampton had not only bought a new printing frame to illustrate screen printing but had also drawn a superb view of Arundel Castle. The very saleable prints proved popular particularly when autographed. Finger printing and other unusual printing methods were demonstrated by William and Jacqueline Bauress.

Among the print finishing processes were book binding, book restoring and the making-up of pads and booklets; Mrs Violet Ott being particularly active in this field. Mrs Joan Ham, the local historian, brought along some of her choicest examples of historic books as well as a comprehensive display of desk-top publishing. Ray Blossett added to the children's education and enjoyment by involving them in the production of hand-marbled book marks. Ray also had on display some exquisite examples of fore-edge painting and goffering, which embraced gilding and edge tooling. Royles had a fine display of stationery illustrating the process of embossing and die-stamping.

We were indebted to Halstan Ltd and Arun Print Services for some fine exhibits of music printing. These included early engraving on pewter plates as well as the latest photo-mechanical techniques.

There was a most impressive stand by the Monotype Corporation of Redhill, Surrey, demonstrating the range of their type setting machines from the early hot-metal caster which has dominated the field for 100 years, to their latest 'Laser Comp' which was showing off its ability to 'write' in Chinese.

The National Printing Ink Company, of Chichester, brought along a working model ink mill as the centre piece of a colourful display of printing inks. They also ran a competition with some attractive prizes.

The Atcost building, for a long time the home of the vintage buses, was pressed into service and housed an interesting collection of exhibits. Here Jeff Lowe of the Bishop Otter College, Chichester, had an excellent working demonstration of paper making. Here were also the stands of the local paper merchants as well as examples of methods of producing watermarks.

Methods of producing illustrations ranging from wood engravings and photo-mechanical plates through to the latest photopolymer chemical process were on display.

The historical aspects of printing were arranged by Monika Smith and visitors to the Printing Workshop were able to examine the Chinese and German contributions to the invention of printing.

In the Printing Workshop itself, all machines were at "go". Thanks to the London

College of Printing and Robot Ltd. of Lancing, the 100-year old Arab treadle press was able to demonstrate the cutting and creasing of card, and the production of money boxes. The hot-metal Linotype and Ludlow machines were casting lines of type to order and all the printing machines, including the latest acquisition, a Heidelberg cylinder press, were available for demonstration. The occasion was made into an opportunity to thank publicly the London College of Printing the Staples Press and Home Counties Newspapers for their donations of machinery.

The Smith's Bookstall, which is usually the Information Centre, was furnished with a small press which was used solely to print the names of visitors in banner headlines on the front page of the current Worthing Gazette and Herald; the long queue was proof enough of its popularity. Beckett Newspapers themselves, who own the Gazette and Herald, contributed to the outdoor fun with a colourful balloon race.

Perhaps the most remarkable exhibit was a copy of the latest facsimile of original Domesday Book. This was kindly loaned by Wiggins Teape Paper Mills who were responsible for providing the antique 'vellum' upon which the pages were printed. The display was enhanced by the addition of the original film positives and printing plates kindly loaned by the Westerham Press. With an individual insurance value of £6000, no wonder Alan Morris the Printer took the Book home every night and slept on it!

There was a 'packed house' in the AV Theatre to hear Henry Larken give an illustrated talk on the development of printing from the 11th century in China to the present day and the BPIF film entitled 'Careers in the Printing Industry' was also shown at frequent intervals during the period of the exhibition.

In the final analysis the exhibition appears to have been a success. Events of this kind usually generate reactions and offers and there has been useful 'spin-offs', as well as donations and some additions to the small team of volunteer printers.

ALAN MORRIS

BOOK REVIEWS

Leslie Oppitz, Sussex Railways Remembered, Countryside Books, ISBN 0 905392 99 x pp 112 £9.95.

A number of railway books are aimed at the railway buff; this one will give pleasure not only to those with a sense of nostalgia but also to younger people with an interest in the ways and routes in which passengers and goods were transported around the county of Sussex. In the more leisurely days before World War I there was a comparatively good service of passenger trains on the branch lines and provided one studied the timetables it was an acceptable method for the people of the villages to get to their market town and return on the same day.

This book has about the right mix of text and interesting photographs many of which show the sort of goods which were carried in the guard's van, or larger brake van, or quite small country stations which at arrival and departure times of trains were a hive of activity.

Leslie Oppitz has made this well produced book with an attractive jacket, an easily readable volume. It is a pity that it is marred by a number of errors in the text, however I understand from the author that there will probably be an early reprint by the publishers in which they will be corrected. Having read and enjoyed reading the book one wonders whether it is not a little overpriced at nearly £10 when assessed against comparable publications.

GORDON THOMERSON

Peter Hay, Steaming Through West Sussex (Midhurst 1987) The Middleton Press, ISBN 0 906520 50 9 pp 96 price not indicated.

This is a complementary volume to the previously published Steaming Through East Sussex. As with this volume the dividing line is taken as the main London to Brighton route, a sensible decision as railways are no respectors of county boundaries. Thus pictures concerned with the Three Bridges to Brighton section appear in both volumes, but not I must emphasise the same illustrations. The title clearly indicates that the emphasis

in this volume is on locomotives in action and therefore it may appeal less to the industrial archaeologist as fewer station views and structures appear than in other series published by the Middleton Press. Having made this statement it must in fairness be stated that many railway photographers worked from station locations and there is much evidence here which will be of value. It is also not unknown for industrial archaeologists also to have caught railway mania. The author in his introduction mentions his debt to J.H.W. Kent who was active in recording the railway scene in Sussex in the early 1960s. Some of the most striking photographs in the book come from his camera. Much earlier material is to be seen too from a diverse range of sources and in most cases of excellent quality and full of interest. The text is confined to a short introduction and brief historical notes on the development and history of the various lines covered. This is essentially a pictorial record with the captions fully describing the selected locomotives and rolling stock and where relevant railway structures. Pure railway nostalgia at a very reasonable price and with the usual excellent standard of production expected from the Middleton Press.

BRIAN AUSTEN

CHALK PITS MUSEUM AMBERLEY

"AN EVENING WITH DAVID SHEPHERD"

Venue: The Arts Centre, Horsham, West Sussex. Date: Thursday 17th March, at 7.30 p.m. This is presented by the Amberley Chalk Pits Museum Association as a funding raising event for the Museum.

David Shepherd will be personally presenting, in his unique way, cine films showing his two personal interests - the conservation of wildlife internationally and steam railways. The evening will be a blend of the two subjects, in fact ideal family entertainment.

Association members will be manning a stand promoting membership and involvement with the Museum, and there will be a sales stand selling books, Museum publications and souvenirs.

Horsham Arts Centre is a modern, comfortable, presentation theatre, with excellent quality equipment. An informative and lively evening is planned, which will be of interest to those who know of David Shepherd's energetic activities to protect his beloved giants - be they animals or railway locomotives.

Further information from: Ian Dean (Director) Amberley Chalk Pits Museum. 0798-831370.

AIA AFFILIATED SOCIETIES WORKING WEEKEND 18-20th MARCH 1988

The AIA Affiliated Societies Working Weekend to be held at Ironbridge is now an annual event and is open to all members of affiliated societies of which SIAS is one, whether or not they are officers or committee members. Discussions of particular interest to local societies are arranged, and the weekend includes a visit to new developments at Blists Hill (part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum). Pam Moore of the Southampton University I.A. Group who is known to a number of our members, has now taken over as AIA Affiliated Societies Liaison Officer from Janet Spavold.

The fee of £18 for the weekend includes coffee, lunch, and dinner on Saturday and coffee and lunch on Sunday but not refreshments on Friday evening, or bed and breakfast accommodation. Application forms from Mrs Pam Moore, 13 Bromley Road, Midanbury, Southampton, Hants. SO2 2AA, phone Southampton 558376.

COURSES OFFERED BY THE FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL

The Field Studies Council have produced a brochure of courses offered at their nine residential Field Centres which are situated in Wales, Essex, Surrey, Somerset, Yorkshire and Shropshire. Several of these courses may interest our members. The Information Pack is available from the Director's Office, Field Studies Council, Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury SY4 1HW.

ASHBURNHAM FORGE AND FURNACE - NEWSLETTER No.56

Attention has been drawn to two errors in the above article.