

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

New Members

Mrs. R. Turner, 48 Wood Ride, Haywards Heath, W. Sussex. RH164NS

Amendments

J. D. Bisdee, "Southanger", Harting Combe, Rake, Nr. Liss, Hants. GU33 7JE
Dr. D. L. Pearce, Lister Cottage, Church Lane, Long Clawson, Melton Mowbray
Leics. LE14 4ND
C. A. Sayer, March House, Oving, Chichester, W. Sussex. PO20 6DG 0243-774377
A. J. L. M. Mackintosh, 8 Truleigh Court, Truleigh, Upper Beeding, Steyning,
W. Sussex. BN4 3JY
West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, West Street, Chichester 0243-533911

Resigned

E. J. Benford, 5 The Dene, Hastings.
L. Draper, 7 Castle Gardens, Swan Street, Petersfield.
Mrs. M. M. Gray, P.O. Box 3248, Vancouver, Canada
R. H. Lodge, 52 Valebridge Road, Burgess Hill
S. D. Penny, 28 Wykeham Way, Burgess Hill,
I. E. Powell, Yew Tree Cottage, Monks Gate, Nr. Horsham.
E. J. Sloane 44 Bute Gardens, London W6
A. J. Vine 99 Percival Road, Eastbourne.
D. T. Ward, 114 Broomfield Avenue, Worthing.

OFFICERS

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(0273) 501590

Area Secretaries

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23481

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

B. Austen, Brig. A. E. Baxter, Mrs. P. M. Bracher, D. H. Cox, Mrs. D. Durden,
F. W. Gregory, E. W. Henbery, P. J. Holtham, G. E. F. Mead, R. M. Palmer,
G. G. Thomerson, M. F. Tighe.
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(0444) 450722.

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SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

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January 1990

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John Saxby - A Railway Pioneer
"Galleting" continued
1867 National Gazetteer - Sussex Entries.
Amberley Chalk Pits Museum

STARTY DATES FOR 1990

This is the first part of the year's programme.

- 10th March Saturday. All day SERIAC 1990.
South East Region Industrial Archaeology Conference "WAR & PEACE" Gillingham,
Kent. organised by Medway Industrial Archaeology Group.
- 13th March Tuesday 7.30 p.m.
Joint Meeting with Chichester Museum Society. Talk "Recent work on the Way
& Arun Canal" by John Woods Secretary of Way & Arun Canal Society at Committee
Room, Pallant House, Chichester. (Note: this annual joint meeting was started
by Alan & Joyce Allnutt when Joyce was a member of the Museum Society Committee)
- 16th March Friday 8 p.m. East Court, East Grinstead. Mr. B. Hawkes, writer, photo-
grapher, broadcaster and lecturer, "The Street Furniture of England". The
East Grinstead Society (non-members welcome. £1.) (Note: strangers should
follow signs to Police Station. Ample free parking outside building. Further
information East Grinstead 323157)
- 18th March Sunday 11 a.m. All day.
Coultershaw Water Pump, Petworth. Working day to prepare the site for general
public to pay to see, provided that we also get more water than we did last
year. Wear old clothes and wellies for sweeping, dusting, painting, scrub
clearance etc. Bring picnic lunch or sample the "Badger & Honeypot" nearby.
MR. SU 972194. Contact M. Palmer 0903 505626.
- 1st April Saturday. Proposed visit to Brede Water Works. Please see next News-
letter. MR. TQ 814178. Contact R. Martin 0273 303805.
- 13th May Sunday. National Mills Day. If you are not helping at a mill why not
volunteer to assist at your local mill?
- 22nd June Saturday. 7 p.m. Members' evening. Horsham Town Hall and Museum,
The Causeway, Horsham. See next Newsletter for final details.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

10th March 1990. Saturday (Yes, same day as the SERIAC Conference.) Centre
for continuing education (University of Sussex)/Sussex Archaeology Society
(CCE/SAS) Day School "Industrial Archaeology in the Brighton area" by Geof.
Mead. Venue Lewis Cohen Urban Study Centre, 68 Grand Parade, Brighton.
Tel: 0273 606675 for further details.
12th May 1990. Saturday. CCE/SAS Day School "Making ends meet - Farming and
Industry in the Sussex Weald 1660-1850 Molly Beswick & Elizabeth Doff. Tel: 0273
606675 for further details.

The Society continues to be represented on various other bodies such as Sussex Archaeology Forum, the Association for Industrial Archaeology, Subterranea Britannica, the Coast and the Countryside Committee of W.S.C.C. on which Chris Bryan has agreed to serve. The South East Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference was organised this year by our Society on the subject of "Industrial Heritage on Display" and took place in Chichester in March. It is by participating with other organisations such as those that I have just mentioned that the status of the Society is enhanced.

The highlight of the year was the creation of the Sussex Mills Group within the Society and this has resulted in an increase in membership of some 50 members, the total now standing at 305. The Mills Group Sub-Committee is under the Chairmanship of Frank Gregory and Don Cox is the Hon. Secretary. They have been responsible for organising several meetings this year and these are a very welcome addition to the activities of the Society.

On a sad note we have lost two members who have died during the year and who will be sadly missed. Charlie Potten who was a very enthusiastic member of the Mills Group Sub-Committee and Alan Allnutt who has been a tower of strength in West Sussex for many years. A Memorial Fund is being set up in Alan's memory to provide commemorative benches at Amberley and Coultershaw, the residue being used to finance an annual lecture or similar activity. Any members who have not yet contributed to this fund are invited to send donations to Gerry Nutbeam who is currently managing the Fund.

Projects in which the Society is involved are:-

Ifield Mill where there has been a very good year for attendances and a new spur wheel is being set out and the material cut.

Poyntz Bridge where the bridge decking has now been completed, new balls have been obtained and a new skirt to the ball races is being constructed.

Coultershaw Beam Pump where Southern Water has been carrying out work to the weir upstream and a consequent loss of water has been experienced, exacerbated by the dry summer. Attendance has been boosted by two large parties towards the end of the season.

PROJECTS WHERE THE SOCIETY IS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED ARE:

Lowfield Heath (though not strictly now in Sussex). The Contractor has completed the re-erection of the buck and the weatherboarding is nearing completion.

Rottingdean Mill where storm damage has now been repaired and the mill now sports four sails.

High Salvington where work has been proceeding in fitting out the internal machinery. Shipley Mill where major repair work is being undertaken. The cap frame is being rebuilt and three cant posts are being replaced.

Winchelsea where the remains of the mill have been removed except the post and there are now plans for rebuilding.

Barnham Mill where there has been considerable concern about the proposed development but the new owner is apparently going to restore the mill together with its machinery and retain the surrounding buildings.

Windmill Hill, Hurstmonceux, where although Planning Approval has been obtained for conversion to a residence, there has been no activity and the mill continues to deteriorate.

Oldland Mill where work is proceeding slowly and more volunteers are needed.

Argos Mill where the storm damage has been repaired.

Plumpton Upper Mill where the wheel has been rebucketted.

Polegate Upper Mill where four sweeps have now been fitted and the fantail mechanism is working. and Hellingly Water Mill where the wheel, sluice and weir have been rebuilt and the hursting reconstructed.

The destruction of sites of interest to industrial archaeologists continues apace and you are all requested to keep your eyes and ears open and report on any demolition which you may know of.

The task of recording I.A.Sites continues although not at the pace I would like to see. This is something which must be done as without a proper record it is impossible to advise on the desirability of saving specific sites under threat.

The Brick Study Group has been working towards the conclusion of their work. The Gazetteer is now complete and four chapters of the book have been written. The work is still unfinished and if anyone has any information about brickworks in Sussex would they please get in touch with Mrs. Molly Beswick on whose shoulder the bulk of this considerable work now falls.

We have had a full programme of visits throughout the year with a working party at Coultershaw, visits to Polegate, Stone Cross, Hellingly and Cross-in-Hand, West Blatchington and Jack and Jill Mills, a walk round Chichester, a day visit to Hampshire as well as a visit and meeting at the Engineerium and a day tour around various mill and ironmaking sites in East Sussex. Assistance was given by several members to remove the carriage hoist from Wadhurst Forge for future re-erection at Amberley Chalk Pits Museum. Our thanks are due to all members who contributed to the success of these events.

The Society's publications continue to maintain their quality. Sussex Industrial History issue No.18 which was devoted to Windmills and Millers of Brighton was published in January and No.19, a general issue, was published in April thus getting back to our correct timing. Thanks are due to our Editor Brian Austen and to the Newsletter Editor, Gordon Thomerson, for their efforts. More contributions are always required from Members to both the Newsletter and to Sussex Industrial History.

Finally, I would like to thank all officers, committee members and members of the Society who have contributed to making this year the success that I think it has been.

RON MARTIN

TREASURER'S REPORT, 1988-1989

During the year we have welcomed the birth of the Sussex Mills Group and its separate existence is reflected in the accounts. We also acted last April as the host Society for SERIAC. It is for others to comment on the success of this, but as far as money is concerned, we received from the 1988 meeting £152.53, our takings amounted to £988.50 against expenditure of £962.61, leaving us to hand on to the Medway I.A. Group £156.42 towards next year, i.e. £3.89 more than we inherited. Something of a triumph for those who did the costing of this event.

We also welcomed three new life members during the year and 52 ordinary members, as against one and 15 last year, a very happy rate of growth for the Society.

As regards income, interest on our deposits continues to increase, thanks to high interest rates, and your Committee has decided to transfer most of the money in our National Savings Investment account to the Charities Deposit Fund, which now offers a better return. On the other hand, although we had eight new covenants during the year our tax recovery was almost unchanged because of the reduction of standard rate tax from 27% to 25%.

Still on income, you will see that our Poyntz Bridge Fund received £877, which includes a grant of £864 from English Heritage, with some more to come.

Coming now to expenditure, our administration costs, the first three items, show an increase of 50% on last year from £700 to £1050. This is partly because of increased printing costs and partly because certain recurring expenditure was paid earlier this year, so that a single year of account has carried two years' costs. You will see that we have also found in a single year the cost of two issues of Sussex Industrial History Nos.18 and 19.

As a result, our General Fund has fallen to £830.30, the amount remaining after discharging our liability to Gatwick Airport Ltd. for the sale of SIH 16 on their behalf. This is the lowest figure since 1985 and your committee feel that although no increase in subscription levels should be recommended for the year commencing 1st April 1990, this will have to be reconsidered next year. Subscriptions were last increased five years ago.

Finally, I would like to express the thanks of your Committee and myself to our Honorary Auditor who has carried out a difficult task with his usual speed and efficiency.

AREA SECRETARIES' REPORTS

WESTERN AREA

Coultershaw Pump

It's a bit late in the day, but we would like to thank all those who helped last year on Open Days as stewards, and to the stalwarts who are slogging away on the winter work programme. Apart from maintaining the status quo, which involves replacing rotten timbers on the wheel, making new clacks for the pump and attention to pump bearings, plus many other odd jobs, we are always trying to improve the displays and the landscaping. As usual, we haven't enough man- or rather people- power to do all we want to do, so if anyone is willing to help, on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, please let me know (Worthing 505626). Also, please make note of the usual pre-season working party on Sunday 18th March, listed above under "Diary Dates".

We are in continuing correspondence with Southern Water concerning the rebuilt side-weir, which we strongly suspect is too low, thus reducing the available head at the wheel. They are checking their levels and we then hope to have a site meeting.

Poyntz Bridge

Chris Bryan is busily rebuilding the broken skirt of the upper cast-iron ball-race of the turntable with fibre glass and the steel insert ring for this upper race has now been machined.

Chris will need a sizeable working party on two separate days in the spring, the first to instal the counterbalance weights and the second to lower the bridge onto the ball-race. Will anyone prepared to be on standby for these "momentous moves" please get in touch with Chris on Chichester 789587?

MICHAEL PALMER

NORTHERN AREA

The closed season gives us at Ifield Mill the opportunity to carry out repairs and improvements. The insoluble problem of improving security on the rear door has been solved! Pat Bracher has set herself the task of refurbishing the display cabinets and much stripping, rubbing down and revarnishing is on the agenda. We have decided to produce a full-size layout (or lofting) of the new main spur wheel and being approx: 9ft. in diameter it will be drawn on to hardboard sheet laid on the top floor of the Mill. Three coats of white emulsion will give us the suitable surface on which to draw, and the advantages will be that every timber section can be positioned on to the layout accurately, to ensure correct final assembly. Also the pitching of the gear teeth can be verified in order to mesh with our existing stone nut. It is only when one gets down to tasks such as this that one begins to fully appreciate the knowledge and skills that the millwrights possessed.

TED HENBERY

JOHN SAXBY - A RAILWAY PIONEER

Recent research by the writer has led to the discovery of a workshop which might well have been where railway inventor, John Saxby, carried out much of his early work. The workshop is contained in a farm building at Wivelsfield,

adjacent to Coldharbour, where Saxby lived until 1889; The probability that Saxby worked there seems too great to be dismissed.

The building incorporates an engine house although today only the concrete base remains where a generator once stood. Immediately outside is a well 180 ft. deep which provided water through tanks which either purified or softened the supply. There is evidence of many pulleys and shafts and in an adjacent area there has been shelving, thought to have contained a row of accumulators. A switch panel had been built into an adjoining wall. On a high beam an old wooden notice board read sternly, "anyone found in the engine house without permission will be discharged." Could one imagine such an instruction today?

Saxby, with his partner John Farmer, became known for his work to revolutionise the operation of signals on the railways. Born in Brighton on August 17th 1821, he came from an important family. His father, a keen supporter of the Chartist Movement belonged to the Saxby's of Maresfield, some of whom sailed to America on the Mayflower. Over many years the bells of Maresfield Church have testified to the generosity of the Saxby family.

John Saxby showed his initiative at an early age. During a drought in Brighton, when he was a child, he sold water from a well at 3d. a pint making some 5 shillings a day! Later he put his skills into quilting cricket balls. His first job was an apprentice to a carpenter at 3s (15p) a week. Then came his attachment to the railways.

In all he served 22 years with the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway (LBSCR) first helping to make wooden mileposts. Later he worked on signals and soon he became superintendent of the signalling department. Then came his first invention - signalling lamps which saved the company £470 a year.

A railway accident at Bricklayers Arms aroused his curiosity. As a result he took out a patent in 1856 which proved a turning point in the history of signalling. Up to that time, signals and points were operated by separate levers so a signal could give a clearance on points wrongly set. Saxby's idea gave simultaneous operation of both by a single lever. Experiments were tried at the Bricklayers Arms junction but initial tests proved unsatisfactory.

Saxby continued his work on the system in his spare time and soon met and worked with John Farmer, a traffic superintendent also with the LBSCR. A workshop was set up in Haywards Heath in two wooden sheds previously owned by a carpenter. The sheds were by the Liverpool Arms Hotel close to the railway station and there was an office in the town. It was from these sheds that experiments, said to have been carried out without the railway company's knowledge, took place at Keymer Junction, near Wivelsfield Station.

By 1861 Saxby offered the idea under licence to the North Western Railway Company for £500. The NWR was interested and recommended that Saxby set up his own business. The business was accepted and both Saxby and Farmer resigned from the railway in 1862. Work at Haywards Heath began apace and orders flooded in. Signals and signal box connections were manufactured in significant quantities. The new equipment was installed at Bricklayers Arms and soon the idea came to the attention of the Board of Trade. From 1885 Saxby's idea became a requirement for the opening of new lines.

Inevitably the two sheds became inadequate and the business moved to Kilburn. By 1872, 700 men were employed there. At times, the firm became sole signal contractor to the LBSCR, the LNWR and the Metropolitan Railway. Because of this a large outside staff was required and eventually 2000 men were employed at Kilburn and another 1000 elsewhere. In 1879, Saxby and Farmer installed one individual frame at London Bridge station containing 280 levers.

Export business followed with agents in many parts of Europe. The first order from the USA came in 1870. In 1878 a factory was opened at Creil in France. This was later carried on by his son, James Saxby. Described as a modest man with great willpower, John Saxby was involved in his lifetime with many great men including Brunel and Robert Stephenson. The Saxby and Farmer relationship broke up in 1888. Farmer continued at Kilburn and John Saxby took the French side as his share. A partnership had ended but it was one whose name is still linked with signalling equipment today. Saxby went on to win gold, silver and bronze medals and he became known in all parts of the world. There was a time during the Franco-Prussian war when he saw many of his materials and appliances commandeered by the Prussians.

It was reckoned that, in all, his ideas had earned him up to £200,000. He once said of himself, "I have an irresistible determination to do something in the world." This he certainly achieved. On the occasion of the opening of a London's Underground line in 1909, the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) said to him, "You have done more than any man living in the reign of Queen Victoria to save human life."

When John Saxby left Coldharbour at Wivelsfield in 1889, he moved to North Court in Hassocks. His grandson was John Hoadley, the name known locally in Burgess Hill by Hoadley's Corner. John Hoadley married a member of the Street family which in 1898 owned the Victoria Pleasure Gardens which existed in Victoria Road, Burgess Hill, where an industrial estate exists today.

John Saxby had progressed with his ideas paving the way to safety standards used today. He developed a large international company covering most countries of the world. All this came from a modest beginning in two wooden sheds at Haywards Heath - and, in all probability, a workshop close to Coldharbour at Wivelsfield.

LESLIE OPPITZ

GALLETING - continued

In the latest volume of the Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society (Vol.33) is an interesting article on galleting by Dr.W.R.Turner.

Many illustrations of the varied types of galleting in stone, brick & flint walling are shown as is the use of flint, carstone & even glass for the gallet. By using churches and nearby buildings he has built up a picture of galleting in the Weald, which shows a marked peak in the first half of the century. In dealing with the reason for galleting he comes down very heavily on the side of decoration, which was a fashion that grew in the southeast and in Norfolk, but has now virtually died out. His sources include such worthies as Alex Clifton Taylor and Ted O'Shea.

In his conclusions he states "It is unfortunate that stonemasons, being lowly folk, have left no written records of their activities, so there is no way of confirming what can be no more than speculation." This can be applied to most of our interests and how dull would be Industrial Archaeology if we could not speculate a little.

An article well-worth reading and if anyone is unable to obtain a copy I will gladly lend them one. My address is 4 Slipper Mill, Emsworth, Hants. Tel: Emsworth 378452.

TONY YOWARD

AMBERLEY CHALK PITS MUSEUM

Winter work progresses well with consolidation being the main aim of the season's activities. Much of this is centred on improving workshop and stores facilities and on our documentation procedures.

The former Penfold blacksmith's shop has been faithfully reconstructed on site having been plucked from a Wimpey development at the old Tortington Ironworks. The transfer was arranged by Wimpeys at no cost to the Museum. Although not scheduled for this winter programme, a display of local "Country Works" will be mounted inside the building. This will feature a background introduction to the many small firms who supplied the needs of the mainly agricultural community. Penfolds of Arundel, Carter Brothers of Billingshurst and Albert Oakley of the Hurst Green Foundry will have more detailed individual coverage. Any material on the "Country Works" theme would be gratefully received.

Recent acquisitions include a set of horse-gears which was used to drive a two-throw deep well pump at Mount Farm, Shillington; and a box-board printing machine built by Collis of London and used in the production of fruit and vegetable boxes at Pink's Sawmills near Wickham in Hampshire.

Our oral history project is under way again this winter under the auspices of Len Smith. The Pepper Story still occupies most of Len's taping time, but he will also be embarking on Penfolds as part of the research for the "Country Works" project.

As ever, volunteers are always welcome, and in the first instance should contact our site services manager, Bill Charlton, who organises volunteer activities.

MIKE WALL
Curator.

The Brickmaking Survey

This is positively my last appeal for any new material members may have on brickmaking in Sussex.

The gazetteer of brickmaking sites is now 'on disc' but sites can still be added. For example a new member recently informed me about a brickworks at Scaynes Hill which did not appear on any of the OS maps, although it was in operation from around 1905 until 1936. The son of the former owner has since supplied details and these have been duly recorded.

In particular, I should be pleased to hear of any photographs, newspaper articles or other illustrated material which has not yet been brought to my notice.

M. BESWICK

ENGINE HOUSES IN THE SOUTH EAST

Howard Stenning, deputy director of the Amberley Chalk Pits Museum, is researching a possible future project concerning brick built steam or oil engine houses in south eastern brickyards. Will any member who has a contribution to make kindly contact him at the Museum on Bury (0798)831370

- vol IV Fernhurst - "There are chemical works and apparatus for charcoal burning which was formerly extensively carried on by government"
- vol V Framfield - "Ironworks were formerly in operation but were discontinued for want of fuel. There are several mills on one of the streams which passes through the parish"
- Funtingdon - "There is a paper mill.Chalk is extensively quarried for burning into lime"
- Grinstead,East - "two breweries,brick and tile making works and a parchment manufacturing which give employment to many of the townspeople"
- Hailsham - "The inhabitants are chiefly employed in the manufacture of rope, twine and sacking. There is a corn mill on the river"
- Hastings - "Shipbuilding....is carried on to some extent "
- Heathfield - "There was formerly a foundry for the manufacture of cannon and iron sand of good quality is found in abundance but it is not at present worked"
- Hollington - "Ironstone is abundant and formerly there were furnaces for smelting the ore, but they have been long discontinued. Limestone and freestone are extensively quarried."
- Horsham - "Streets....well paced with large flat stones from the neighbouring quarries and are lighted by gas....also several cornmills,malting houses,two ale and porter breweries an extensive tanyard,iron foundry,engineering and agricultural implement manufactory"
- Iping - "The inhabitants are employed in the paper mills"
- Isfield - "There is a paper manufactory and an extensive flour mill"
- Jevington - "At the northern extremity of the parish is a limekiln"
- Keymer - "There are extensive brick and tile kilns also brown ware potteries at St.Johns Common"
- Kingston by sea - "It is a small but flourishing village situated on the South Coast railway of which it is the chief station for goods landed in Shoreham new harbour.There are very extensive warehouses and malthouses also a shipbuilding yard belonging to Messrs.May and Thwaites,and coke ovens and works of the South Coast Railway Co. A portion of the inhabitants are engaged in fishing and boat building"
- Kirdford - "There are good quarries of the Petworth and Sussex marbles"
- vol VI Laughton - "There are quarries of Sussex marble which is susceptible of a very high polish"
- Lewes - "An extensive business is done in the grain and malt trade.There are also several large breweries and iron foundries,a paper mill, several corn mills and a shipbuilding yard"
- Lindfield - "There are brick and tile kilns also a pianoforte manufactory employing a large number of persons"
(to be continued)

G.E.F.Mead

Sussex Industrial History

The Editor would be interested to hear of any articles that might be published in future issues of our journal. Articles of any length would be considered, but these must be concerned with the industry,trade,commerce and public services within the counties of East and West Sussex. The description of buildings, sites and equipment associated with industrial and commercial activities, accounts of trades and crafts, firms involved in the production of goods or the provisions of services and public sector enterprises would all be suitable subjects.

Several interesting articles have been promised for the future but there is at present a shortage of material for SIH No.21 to be published in April 1991. Readers who have, or are proposing to produce articles are asked to contact the Editor, Brian Austen at 1 Mercedes Cottages, St.John's Road,Haywards Heath, West Sussex.RH16 4EH (Tel:413845)who would be pleased to offer comment and advice if required.

The following letter has been received by our Gen.Hon.Sec. from the RAILWAY AND CANAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY of 122 Hermitage Road, St. Johns,WOKING, SurreyGU21 1TT. 28th June 1989

Dear Mr. Martin,

Your members may be interested to learn that on behalf of the Railway and Canal Historical Society I hold a number of Photographs and Picture Postcards depicting Canals and Tramroads in your area. By the very nature of this Society quite a few were taken before the last War and show scenes which have long since changed.

If you or any of your Members would like further details please write me giving as much information as to what place(s) interest them.

Normally I supply initially zerox copies, at 10p each, of items in our collection and if afterwards a photographic copy is required this would be done commercially at a cost varying between £2 and £5 depending upon size etc. Reproduction rights for use in books would be a matter of negotiation.

SIH 19 - ERRATA

Please note:

Page 36 for TQ 631 051 read TQ 631 015

Page 37 for TQ 620 990 read TV 618 997

MILLS GROUP NEWS

A few notes from the Mills Group secretary on news that has come to notice. West Chilmington Windmill

After eight years living in the mill,in which all four floors except the cap are now living-accommodation,Mr. & Mrs. Johnson realised that the sweeps were rotten and dangerous.As the building is listed Grade II and situated in a conservation area they decided that the sweeps must be replaced. So early in December 1989 a well-known firm from Burgess Hill fitted the new sweeps.These are made of pitch pine and have a span of 65 ft. They are expected to last for at least 30 years. (If only all mill owners had this attitude)

Burton Mill

A planning application has been submitted to include living accommodation in the building.I have written to object to this as the plans do not show what will happen to the machinery that has been installed there. The reasons for the application are in order to help find a new tenant for the mill. Applications direct to the mill, please.

King's Mill, Shipley.

Work on renovation of this mill is proceeding. The cap is on the ground and looks ready to be replaced. I look forward to seeing the mill back to full working order in the near future.

Argos Mill, Mayfield

The house alongside Argos Mill is up for sale but this does not include the mill. This together with the ground that supports the mill (and no more) is owned by Wealden District Council. This is an odd situation and we hope that any new owner of the adjacent house will be sympathetic to the mill and the interest of the public in the mill.

Lowfield Heath Windmill

The roof section was successfully refitted after initial problems with alignment of the mortices. The weatherboarding is well advanced due to stalwart work by the volunteers who one Saturday, when I was passing, were working in steady rain! A great deal remains to be done both internally and externally and Peter James would welcome offers of assistance. Formal skills are not essential but enthusiasm helps. Please contact Peter on Crawley 540705.

Windmill Hill, Hertmonceaux

The decaying state of this mill was brought to the notice of those attending the AGM and letters have been written to point out the obligations of the owner for the listed building. (This contrasts with West Chiltington Mill!!)

LATE NEWS - Dean's Mill, Lindfield.

Our member, Mr. M.W. Broomfield of Dean's mill advises us that Southern Water have now agreed to repair the damage to the sluice caused by the hurricane of October 1987. It is hoped that the mill will therefore have its power source restored before long.

National Mills Day 1990

Finally, an appeal to all those concerned with mills that could be opened to the public on National Mills Day on 13th May 1990. Please let me know as soon as possible (end January at the latest) if you will be open and if you will be arranging something special. I would like to be in a position to be able to get some publicity for this event. Please let me know what you are doing.

DON COX

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