

Oat Crushing will take place all afternoon on the above dates in the bottom of the Mill using our Whitmore and Binyon Roller Crusher.

The afternoon talks will all be on milling-based subjects and will be held in the Mill at 2pm. In addition to the above, the Mill will be open from 10am to 5pm on National Mills Day (Sunday 9th May). During Wednesday afternoons in August, visitors will be able to see a flock of pedigree Southdown Sheep on the Mill Plat.

For further details on the talks and events at Polegate this year, contact Lawrence Stevens on (0323) 734496 or (0323) 727765.

## OFFICERS

President	A.J. Haselfoot
Chairman	Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey, Home Farm, Herons Ghyll, Uckfield
Vice Chairman	J.S.F. Blackwell, 21 Hythe Road, Brighton BN1 6JR (0273) 557674
General Sec:	R.G. Martin, 42 Falmer Ave, Saltdean, Brighton, BN2 8FG (0273) 303805
Treasurer & Membership Sec:	J.M.H. Bevan, 12 Charmandean Rd, Worthing BN14 9LB (0903) 235421
Editor	B. Austen, 1 Mercedes Cottages, St John's Rd, Haywards Heath RH16 4EH (0444) 413845
Archivist	P.J. Holtham, 12 St. Helen's Crescent, Hove BN3 8EP (0273) 413790
Publicity	G.E.F. Mead, 47, Hartfield Avenue, Brighton BN1 8AD (0273) 501590
Mills Group:	
Chairman	B. Pike, Stream Cottage, Coggins Mill, Mayfield, East Sussex TN20 6UP (0435) 873367
Secretary	D.H. Cox, 3 Middle Road, Partridge Green, Horsham RH13 8JA (0403) 711137
Committee	F. Gregory, P. Hill, J. Muddle, P. Pearce, S. Potter, T. Martin
Area Secretaries	
Eastern Area	-
Western Area	Brig. A.E. Baxter, 9 Madeira Avenue, Worthing BN11 2AT (0903) 201002
Central Area	J.S.F. Blackwell, 21 Hythe Road, Brighton BN1 6JR (0273) 557674
Northern Area	E.W. Henbery, 10 Mole Close, Langley Green, Crawley (0293) 23481

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

B. Austen, Brig. A.E. Baxter, Mrs. P.M. Bracher, C. Bryan, D.H. Cox, Mrs. D. Durden, F.W. Gregory, E.W. Henbery, P.J. Holtham, G.E.F. Mead, R.M. Palmer, B. Pike, G.G. Thomerson.  
Copy for the newsletter should be sent to:  
G.G. Thomerson, 42 Gander Hill, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1RD (0444) 450722

Copy for the Mills Group section should be sent to D.H. Cox, whose address is above.

LATEST DATE FOR COPY FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER IS 10th JUNE 1993

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APRIL 1993

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The Troughs  
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Sussex Mills Group News

## PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1993

- Sunday 9 May National Mills Day. Contact D.H. Cox (0403-711137)
- Saturday 22 May 10.30 a.m. \*Visit to Kings Cross/St. Pancras area of London looking at Kings Cross Station and Goods Yard, the Regent's Canal and the London Canal Museum which includes two large ice wells. Meet inside Kings Cross Station at top of the steps from the Underground. Pub lunches available. Restricted to 30 members. Contact R.E. Allen (0323-896724)
- Saturday 26 June 11.00 a.m. Walk around the Barcombe area looking at I.A. of railways, canals, mills and pillboxes. Bring packed lunch and heavy footwear. Meet in Barcombe Mills car park (TQ 435145). Contact D.H. Cox (0403-711137)
- Saturday 10 July 2.30 p.m. \*Walk around Bexhill followed by a visit to Bexhill Museum, refreshments and a short talk. Meet at Old Town Car Park, De la Warr Road (TQ747079). Contact R.E. Allen (0313-896724)
- Monday 22 August 10.30 a.m. Mills Tour starting at Coultershaw Pump, Petworth. SU972194. Contact P. Pearce (0903-241169)

For all visits it is IMPORTANT that the contact person knows how many people are coming, so please let him know at least 7 days before the event of your intention to attend.

Please note: There will be a small charge for the events marked \*

## COULTERSHAW JOTTINGS

By the time this appears in print the mid-March working party will have come and gone, and hopefully all is ship-shape and ready for the 1993 season; so thank you, all you good folk who turned up to help (and apologies that I wasn't there!).

Maintenance during the winter has been enlivened (?) on two occasions by flooding of the basement level (the first time for two years) but the essential things have been done. Over the past few years over two thirds of the sixty starts on the wheel have been replaced, with hopes

that the fresh lot will last longer than those we originally fitted in the late '70s.

We have at last acquired, as a gift from the National Trust at Waggoners Wells near Hindhead, an hydraulic ram – a Blake's 'Hydrum' No 3. The manufacturers have been most helpful in providing information, including the detailed specification of the ram as supplied in 1930, performance tables and recommendations as to installation. By sheer good fortune this ram is just the right size for our needs. As a working demonstration it will be installed so that it can be easily seen – and heard! – and will be supplied with water from a reservoir formed by an enlarged basin of the beam pump fountain. This basin, of 200 gallon capacity, has been completed and it is hoped to commission the ram by mid-year. Rams were very popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as providing a virtually automatic water supply and in many instances, as at Bignor Park, supplanted waterwheel-driven pumps.

Ron Martin's beautiful isometric drawing of the beam pump now appears in "Water – the Book" (what a curious title!) by Hugh Barty-King, which is a well researched history of water supply and disposal in the U.K. Well done, Ron!

**MICHAEL PALMER**

#### POYNTZ BRIDGE

Some dates for work on the bridge are:-

May 9th & 23rd, June 27th, approx. 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Work will be dependent on the weather. There is no vehicular access across the playing field when the grass is wet. Work will also be carried out on other days and evenings. If you are able to help, contact Chris Bryan on Chichester (0243) 773158

#### A.I.A. CONFERENCE

The 21st Annual Conference of the Association for Industrial Archaeology is being held this year at the Charlotte Mason College, Ambleside, Cumbria, 10th-12th September 1993, with a Supplementary Programme 8-10th and 13-14th September. I have an advanced copy of the Programme and if any Member would like a copy of this or of the Booking Form when this becomes available will they please get in touch with me. Early booking is advisable as it is usually possible to get a discounted booking fee.

**RON MARTIN**

#### TANNERIES IN SUSSEX

Some thirty years ago, we embarked on a survey of the tannery sites of Sussex. Since then we have intermittently made assaults on the project and the last two years we have taken to our bicycles and visited numerous tannery sites and met many residents of surviving tannery buildings. We have done some documentary research and have enjoyed a steady flow of information from new-found friends.

So far we have recorded over 60 Sussex parishes specifically associated with tanning, well over 20 of which still had a tannery in 1851, but by 1900 only four had survived and now there are none.

Photographic records of this once important Sussex industry are sparse, for we have photographs of working tanners from only two tanneries and few photographs of tannery buildings. Equally rare are examples of the machinery and working tools of the trade, as are the tannery workers themselves.

We would be grateful for any information on Sussex tanneries to add to our researches. Naturally, all information used in the published results will be acknowledged. Please contact us at 10 Calverley Road, Eastbourne BN21 4SR (Tel: 27765)

**LAWRENCE AND PATRICIA STEVENS**

#### CATTLE TROUGHS

Horse and cattle troughs at one time would have been a very common site in the towns and villages. Many of them were erected by the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association which was founded in 1859. The Society has been asked to locate all the surviving examples in the County. The following is a list of all the ones known to date and if any Members know of any other examples would they please let me know.

##### East Sussex

- ALFRISTON - Drusillas – TQ 524048 (2) One formerly from Trinity Trees, Eastbourne
- BEXHILL - Collington Lane West – TQ 725076
- BRIGHTON - St. Georges Place, in Victoria Gardens – TQ 31440473
- BRIGHTON - London Road, South end of Peace Garden, Patcham – TQ 30160828
- BRIGHTON - London Road, Patcham "Patcham Fountain" – TQ 30130889
- FASTBOURNE - Willingdon Road by Cemetery entrance – TQ 597000
- HARTFIELD - TQ 45173332
- HASTINGS - Elphinstone Road – TQ 822122
- HASTINGS - Cambridge Road – TQ 809094
- HEATHFIELD - Junction of A265 and B2096 – TQ 593217
- LEWES - Mount Pleasant, opposite the Elephant and Castle P.H. – TQ 414102
- LEWES - In Southover Gardens – TQ 413098
- LEWES - Southover Road, at bottom of Watergate Lane – TQ 415099
- MAYFIELD - High Street – TQ 585269
- POLEGATE - High Street – TQ 580047
- ST. LEONARDS - Battle Road – TQ 791127
- SEDLSCOMBE - The Street, beside the Queen's Head P.H. – TQ 782179

##### West Sussex

- BURGESS HILL - St. John's Road – TQ 311192
- HASSOCKS - at Stonepound crossroads – TQ 298154
- LINDFIELD - Black Hill beside the Green – TQ 346251
- MIDHURST - In main car park – SU 887217
- STEYNING - High Street – TQ 174113

**RON MARTIN**

#### TILT HAMMER FROM DUNNING'S MILL

The society has had a recent enquiry about the tilt hammer which was recovered from Dunning's Mill at East Grinstead some years ago. Frank Gregory informs me that it was at Gleton at one time. Has any Member any other information as to its whereabouts?

**RON MARTIN**

#### MORE ON ILLICIT SUBSTANCES (Geoff Mead's article in Newsletter No.77)

Further to Geoff Mead's article in *Newsletter* No.77 on the subject of illicit substances, there was one fraud of gigantic proportion that rocked the brewing industry last century. This was by the Allen Brothers Alfred and Dennett of Horsham and West Chilington, maltsters and farmers who had malthouses at Springfield Road Horsham, Adversane, West Chilington, Mulsey near Pulborough and Worthing High Street

Prior to 1880 when the beer duty was reintroduced there was a duty on malt. Malsters were required to notify the Excise of their intention to soak the barley and on removal from the cistern hold it in a specific area called a "couch" where the volume could be assessed by measuring the width, length and depth. In 1857 the duty was 3/8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d per bushel. It was this duty the Allens set out in part to evade. This they did by constructing duplicate secret premises

in which malt was produced for ten years free of duty. As is so often the case they were let down by a disgruntled employee who when his attempt to blackmail the brothers failed went to the authorities at Worthing.

On 31 March 1857 a dawn raid on the Worthing malthouse at first drew a blank until one of the officers noticed that the mortar in the wall near a kiln was soft, and on examination a section of wall was removed revealing a subterranean passage leading to a large space ingeniously contrived to contain two steeping vaults. The officers raced to the other malthouses and found similar cunning contrivances but were too late to stop some of the evidence being removed and several loads of malt being dumped in the river although £12,000 worth was seized and taken to London by special train. The Allen brothers fled the country first to France and then to America. They were tried in their absence and found guilty on thirty two counts for which no defence was given and fined £110,000. They were eventually allowed to return home on payment of a commuted fine of only £10,000. Their businesses were carried on by relatives and friends in their absence but one by one the malthouses were sold off (to pay the fine), the last at Adversane being converted to cottages where it remains to this day opposite the "Blacksmith Arms" public house.

PETER HOLTHAM

#### PETER LONGLEY OBE

It is with great pleasure that we record the award of the OBE to Peter Longley who is one of our members and also a Trustee and Treasurer of the Amberley Chalk Pits Museum. Peter's work for the Museum has ensured steady development there, and his high standards and dedication to the Museum have now been recognised together with his other outside activities. Congratulations to Peter.

#### BRIGHTON PACKET BOATS

The note on Packet Boats at Shoreham on page 9 in *Newsletter No.77* rang a bell with me and I looked up my records. You might find the following as interesting as I did.

I am fortunate in that my great, great, great grandfather Walter Tremenheare was a great keeper of journals and some of them, together with several of his letters are extant, and make fascinating reading. He was an Officer of the Marine Corps (now the Royal Marines) and in 1787, when on half pay during the peace of 1783-92, he decided to spend some of his enforced leisure time in France "learning the language".

Having spent 14 months there, he returned to this country from Dieppe by the Packet "Speedwell", and was deposited with his bags on the beach at Brighton in mid-June 1789. He spent the night at the Ship Hotel, "delighted" as he writes, "at sitting down to an English dinner again, and struck by the neat clothing of the people and the cleanliness of everything". He took the stage up to London next morning to continue his journey back to his home in Penzance.

He must have been one of the earliest users of the packet service; unfortunately he makes no other mention either of the packet, or of Sussex. However I found your note of great interest in adding to the information I have culled on Walter's times.

A. WYNN TREMENHEARE

#### WEST SUSSEX VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

West Sussex County Council provides financial support for the Victoria County History and a recent progress report submitted to them details work on the next volume to be published which will deal with the rape of Arundel.

The report is by Dr. Tim Hudson, the Sussex Editor of the Victoria County History, who will be

known to many members. He reports on the West bank of the River Arun below Arundel, which was flanked by a line of medieval settlements, three of their survivors being Climping, Ford and Tortington. The East/West line of the London - Portsmouth canal, closed in 1847, joined the river at Ford, traces of it still being visible, as well as traces of the medieval village. Climping Smock Mill, now a residence, lies on the edge of the golf course. There were two mills at Felpham, sited south of the village, one being lost to heavy weather in the nineteenth century.

Recent volumes of the Victoria County History have covered the area between Worthing and Horsham; Dr. Hudson's next volume will include the fullest and most detailed history of Arundel that has ever appeared and will throw new light on many aspects of the town's history.

#### EARLY VICTORIAN ALFRISTON

Johnie Johnson is trying to build up a picture of Early Victorian Alfriston, using as the basis of his researches the 1841 and 1851 censuses and the tithe map of this and the surrounding parishes. So far he has found documentary evidence of a second smithy (and he believes there is a third); has information about the small brewery which survived the closure of its larger partner and is certain about the location of the malthouse.

Members have already been helpful in providing information about the brickyard and the leather industry but he needs further information relating to:

- i) the wheelwright's shop, located away from the village centre, away from the Smithies, up a hill in Winton Street. Was this not unusual?
- ii) the tallow chandlery, alleged to have existed in the 1830s and 1840s, though he can find no mention of it after 1801. The 1841 census has no tallow chandler but in 1851 James Marchant, 86, retired tallow chandler, was living in the village with his daughter-in-law.
- iii) Charles Brooker, tanner, schismatic, anti-Corn Law Leaguer, anti-workhouse activist, unsuccessful parliamentary candidate.

Can anyone shed light on any of the above or indeed offer any other material relating to this study? Johnie Johnson can be phoned on 0323 870083 or contacted at 9 White Court, King's Ride, Alfriston BN26 5XP.

#### BOOK REVIEWS

W.H. Johnson, *Alfriston Village School 1879-1908* (1992) pp 64.

Available from the author at 9 White Court, Kings Road, Alfriston BN26 5XP £3.30 including post & packing.

Industrial archaeologists have over the years widened the range of buildings and activities in which they are interested and schools may well be considered of concern to those who accept this wider interpretation. Formal elementary education at Alfriston commenced in 1817 with the establishment of a National School on the village green (or Tye) close to the parish church. This survived until 1878 when a local School Board was set up under the powers of the 1870 Forster Education Act, to take over the existing school. This book relates the story of the Alfriston Board School from February 1879 when it opened under the new management until 1908 when a new replacement school opened in North Road. Its story is seen through the evidence contained in the School log books and inspector's reports and is one of an institution struggling for funds and endeavouring to cope with leaking roofs, insanitary toilets, uncooperative stoves, a growing school population and lack of teaching staff. Rural poverty and the inability of parents to pay school fees, absence of children for hop picking and other agricultural labour, the uninspiring curriculum dictated by the need to satisfy inspectors that grades were being achieved to maximise grants, all appear in these pages. Examples of contemporary books and learning materials and appendices listing the legislation and

regulations that defined late nineteenth century elementary education throw further light on the regime under which this village school laboured.

This book provides the perspective of the chalk face and the local regulation of the Board which adds depth to the national picture of education in the nineteenth century. It also raises debates that are with us today, national testing of standards of pupil achievement and control of schools by local boards of governors with extended powers. A worthwhile publication for those interested in the history of education or the development and past of the Cuckmere Valley area.

BRIAN AUSTEN

SUIAG, *Southampton University Industrial Archaeology Group Journal* No.1 (November 1992) ISSN 0967-3474 pp31 illus. £4.50 (including post and packing). Available from Capt. I. Downer, Publications Officer, SUIAG, 4 Hartley Close, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hants. SO5 3NE.

The first issue of the *SUIAG Journal* sets high standards as would be expected with Ed Course as its editor. The key to this issue is restoration with articles on the Golden Lion Brewhouse, Southwick by Pam Moore, Bursledon Windmill by John Reynolds and Southampton Tram No.11 by Steve Fletcher and Dave Goodwin. All these articles tell a sterling tale starting with the history of operation, neglect and subsequent demise, acquisition and loving restitution and successful restoration (or very considerable progress in the case of the tram). Although, as indicated, the tram has yet to run, the brewhouse has again produced beer and the windmill flour or meal. A fourth major article describes the Hampshire watercress industry. Modern and traditional methods of growing and harvesting are described in detail and a gazetteer of 30 growing sites, mostly still in use, provided. This is an impressive effort as it was based on a mere two weeks of very active fieldwork. The final short article has no specific Hampshire interest and is concerned with parallel-motion mechanism and written by James Paffett. All the articles are well illustrated by clear and effective photographs and detailed drawings. The use of surfaced quality paper ensures a high standard of reproduction but of course has a cost. In size this journal is similar to our own but has a higher cover price. This is accounted for by the better quality paper used and the higher quality reproduction of the photographs. If members want this standard from the *Sussex Industrial History* it will mean a subscription of around £2 per annum. Let's have your thoughts.

BRIAN AUSTEN

#### KINGS, MIDLINGS AND SCRUBS – SOME RAW MATERIALS OF THE CLOTH TRADE

In a now defunct magazine – *Country Fair* – I came across an article by Ruth How, a Sussex contributor, on teazles, their life and uses. The wild teazle growing on the banks of our Sussex streams was not used in cloth manufacture, though I shall refer to this later. It is the Full Teazle or cultivated variety that is used, this plant having a more hooked prickle.

Most of the commercial teazle crop used to be grown in Somerset, but during the fifty years up to the 1950s the beds had shrunk so that the West of England cloth trade obtained theirs from Yorkshire. The teazles were sown traditionally on Lady Day, transplanted in the autumn, and cut the next summer. Each stalk has one long upright stem in the middle terminating in a King Teazle – the finest and biggest head on a stalk and the most useful. The second largest heads which branch out from the stem are called Middlings and the smallest, Scrubs.

After teazles are harvested they are tied in bundles and strung on poles for drying. In the mills the teazles are mounted on frames in close set formation so that their fine delicate hooked points pass through the fibrous surface of the cloth without harming it. Old, well used teazles are reserved for more delicate faced cloths.

Although Ruth How dismissed the use of our county teazle, the county history written by Mark Antony Lower in 1870 mentioned in the tiny scarpfoot parish of Folkington – “teazles indispensable in the dressing of broadcloth are successfully cultivated on part of the estate” (of Folkington Place); presumably they were not grown on the rich cornlands of the scarpfoot, but

on the heavier soils of the Weald Clay and Gault Clay bordering Abbots Wood, preferring as they do – “open woods stream sides and waste places common on the chalk and clay”

#### Bibliography

Ruth M. How, *Country Fair*, August 1954 p57  
M.A. Lower, *Compendious History of Sussex*, (1870) p186  
P.C. Hall, *Sussex Plant Atlas*, (1980) p151

GEOFFREY MEAD

#### ADUR CANAL

*Brighton Gazette* May 8th 1851

“Enlargement of Shoreham Harbour. The Trustees of this harbour have accepted a tender for the construction of the long contemplated extension of their harbour. The plan ... embraces the construction of a ship canal upwards of a mile in length and docks similar to some in use at Liverpool, and of sufficient depth to float at all times, craft which may enter the harbour. The object of these works will be to bring the wharfage of the harbour a mile and a half nearer to Brighton than at present, the site of the docks being near to the Wish Barn.”

During the century prior to this announcement Brighton, and latterly Hove, had undergone a huge transformation, with rapid population increase and a corresponding increase in the built up area. The two main import areas were either across the Brighton beach or via the tidal creeks around the Adur estuary to the west. The use of the beach for leisure purposes brought about land-use conflict with the shipping facilities and this caused more cargo to be brought through the Adur wharves at Shoreham, Kingston, Southwick and Copperas Gap, the most eastern of the landing places and thus closest to the growing town of Brighton.

Development within the town was forcing the storage areas for building materials to be located further from the shore, and the timber yards and stone yards formerly found in Middle St. and Ship St., were by the turn of the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries being found in the crofts along North St. and further out in North Laine.

With the opening of the railway from Shoreham in May 1840 there was even more pressure on the port facilities; the rail link finally obviated cargo landing on Brighton beach but the collective wharves that comprised Shoreham Harbour were still dependent on tidal operations – to the detriment of all the local import-export operations. The need to enclose the mud flats and shingle banks to create a deep water, non-tidal operating area became increasingly apparent, leading to a consortium of Brighton traders putting forward the canal plan; Isaac Gray Bass, later a Mayor of Brighton and a wholesale grocer being a prominent party in this venture.

The canal was eventually opened 20 Feb 1855 with new locks opening in 1933 and 1957, leaving the original construction as a dry dock for repairs and graving.

GEOFFREY MEAD

#### CHIDDINGLY PARISH – A NEW STUDY

I.A. is not a subject divorced from its physical or social landscape and, increasingly, our interests in the artefacts and practices of past industrial processes bring in their wake a greater understanding of the background to our particular I.A. topic.

An appreciation of the physical landscape not only reveals potential raw materials and power supplies e.g. iron ore, charcoal producing woodland or running water, but it can also reveal some aspects of the social landscape. Heavy soils and poor lands e.g. Weald clay or Ashdown beds generally lead to an ‘open’ community influenced by a multitude of small landowners all struggling to survive. The poor land drives people to supplement agriculture with industry – clay is dug for bricks, timber cut for planking, minerals excavated for processing. Conversely light soils and good land e.g. chalk Downland and coastal brickearths ensure bumper crops on land owned by a few rich and powerful people; agriculture is dominant and industry can be actively discouraged. Wealth from the crops and flocks can buy-in goods from the ‘open’ areas,

and the rich 'closed' communities stay free from the radical thoughts and practices of their more disruptive neighbours.

Chiddingly is a good example of an open community and one I have studied and visited over the years. For I.A. the village itself can offer local bricks and tiles, outlying parts at Stream Farm and Gun Hill reek of the iron industry, the south of the parish on the heavy Weald clays of The Dicker abounded with brickmakers, and the shoe retailers Russell and Bromley have their origins in the parish family of Abraham Russell 'cordwainer'. Mills at Golden Cross and near Burgh Hill processed crops from the clays and oasts further north testify to hop production on the Tunbridge Wells Sandstone.

A new and welcome insight into the farming difficulties of this area, which may lead farmers into a dual economy linked to industry, has appeared in the *Agricultural History Review* Vol 40 pt II 1992 entitled:-

"Small farms in a Sussex Weald Parish 1800-60"  
by June A. Sheppard.

The University of Sussex has it in their periodicals section filed under H.L.

The period studied was one that saw great prosperity during the Napoleonic wars, followed a post war economic slump that forced many small farms to the wall. Expansion onto the Dicker Common gave access to new land resources, but the lack of good roads or rail access meant a rein on effective exploitation of the area. Fragmentation of holdings enables larger owners to acquire land at the expense of smaller ones and this unstable economic period doubtless led to a rise in the number of landless labourers, who were the bugbear of parish administrators in the closed areas, but who supplied the labour for the brickfields and woodlands of the open communities.

Anyone requiring a copy can contact me on Brighton 501590 - no charge, but a donation to SIAS funds please.

**GEOFFREY MEAD**

#### **COMPANY HISTORIES** (*Newsletter 75*, p.5)

Readers may be interested to know that a brief history of Sainsbury's in East Grinstead appeared in the East Grinstead Society's *Bulletin* 49 (Autumn 1991).

A history of Turner, Rudge & Turner, estate agents, etc., 1785-1987, appeared in *Bulletin* 44 (Autumn 1988).

A good deal of material relating to other local businesses has appeared in brief notes or incidentally in other articles.

*Bulletins* may be ordered from the Town Museum, East Court, East Grinstead, at 50p each postage extra.

**M.J. LEPPARD**

### **SUSSEX MILLS GROUP**

#### **NUTLEY WINDMILL 1968 TO 1993**

This year the Uckfield and District Preservation Society will have been caring for Nutley mill for 25 years. Although the actual date is in October, the society is to celebrate the event on 9 May, National Mills day.

The Mill will be open for the day from 10 am to 5.30 pm. There are to be Craft Stalls, Mr D. Figs is exhibiting more of his old agricultural implements and the Ashdown Forest Morris Dancers will be performing in the afternoon. Sussex Radio are to visit during the day. The Mill will have new sail cloths on its common sweeps, which should make it look quite smart. These sweeps were erected in 1987, just before the hurricane and because of delays this

caused have only been completed now. The Mill Barn should also be finished and visitors will be able to enter the field through here. This will make a much needed improvement particularly in wet weather, both for visitors and helpers.

Our much hoped for electricity supply does not seem any nearer its provision. This would make the work much easier and make opening the mill in the autumn much better. Perhaps next Year!

#### **ARGOS HILL WINDMILL, MAYFIELD**

This mill will be open this summer on six afternoons. Wednesday 28 April; Sunday 9 May; Wednesday 30 June; Saturday 10 July; Wednesday 25 August and Sunday 11 September. From 2pm to 5pm, there is no entrance charge.

Car parking is very limited, I suggest the best place to park is at the junction of B2101 with A267, the road opposite the Bicycle Arms has been closed and there is room for about three cars. Map Reference TQ 5704 2846. From there walk up the hill for about 150 metres to cross roads turn left, mill is then 50 metres on left. I understand the bar food is very good at the Bicycle Arms.

Both the owners of the mill, Wealden District Council and the land owner want visits restricted to these dates. There are no contact names available.

**BRIAN PIKE**

#### **NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY**

Further to my request for you to let me know of your particular interest in mills I have had one reply. M. Yates of Reigate has just retired and is trying to compile what can best be described as a technical description of every windmill in Sussex. He is seeking others working on the same lines. He is also preparing a glossary of milling terms. (I know Tony Yoward is working on these lines but is anybody else?) Contact me for more details.

#### **Jack and Jill**

I have been sent a sample print of a painting of the above by Paul Evans. These are being reproduced as limited edition prints, numbered and signed by the artist. They sell at £25 for the print unmounted, £30 mounted and £45 mounted and framed. Any that I sell will provide a donation to Sussex Mills Group. Please contact me if you are interested.

#### **Gibbons Mill**

On a recent recording visit to the mill I found that it is now being converted into a dwelling.

#### **Exhibition of Paintings of Mills**

Town Museum & Art Gallery at Church Road Hove are staging an exhibition of paintings of windmills "The Romantic Windmill - the windmill in British art from Gainsborough to David Cox 1750-1850". Open 7th March to 25th April 1993. Also Windmills in Sussex 1st April to 1st May. And Windmill paintings by St. John Child. An advert for this was on Meridian Television last week featuring Frank Gregory.

#### **Rock Mill at Washington**

This is now owned by the company running the landfill site adjacent. This is not the same as the company extracting sand on the other site. I am trying to find out more details and what they intend to do with it.

#### **Bibliography**

L. Stevens has sent me some more titles for the above. Any more before we publish an addendum?

#### **Tea towels**

Peter Hill has sent me some more of these and would be pleased to have your orders.

**DON COX**

## BOOK REVIEW

Mervyn Cutten and Vic May, *The Mill and the Murrell*, 1992 pp 54 published by Bearer Print, Publicity Ltd., Eastergate, W.Sussex

This is a well produced and easily read book which presents a history of the present tower mill and its post mill predecessor, coupled with that of the Murrell with which it had many close connections. The foreword by Martin Brunnarius. There is something here for the keen molinologist and also for those who are just "interested in windmills and village history".

We are taken from the first knowledge of a postmill at Barnham when John Rusbridger, miller, appeared on the Protestation Returns in 1678, through its history to the date of its being blown down in 1827. In 1829 the present tower mill was erected by millwright Henry Martin of Bognor, and again the authors trace the history up to the present day, including the family connection with the Murrell Arms nearby.

This book is well illustrated, and is a welcome addition to the windmill library.

The book is priced at £5.95 but Vic May has let us have some copies to sell at a discount enabling us to make some money for the mills group. These are available from Vic May, Barnham Mill on 0243-542760 or the reviewer on 0903-241169

PETER PEARCE

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### WINDMILL FROM THE WAY AND ARUN CANAL

Donald Codling

In Jack Hampshire's *I worked with Traction Engines* (J.H. Lake & Co., Falmouth, 1967), he states that whilst working with his family firm (pre 1914-18 war) his father had taken on a contract "to dismantle an old windmill that stood on the south bank of the Wey and Arun Junction Canal. The mill had to be taken to pieces very carefully and each part had to be marked and numbered. The small parts and machinery had to be put into crates and the centre shaft and the sweeps transported on a timber tug to London docks for shipment to America".

Are there are records or photographs of this mill whilst in situ in the UK? Do we know where in America it went to? Is it still standing? Etc.

**Editors' Note:** The Wey and Arun Canal is 18½ miles long and links the Godalming Navigation 3 miles south-west of our home at Guildford in Surrey to the Arun Navigation near Billingshurst in Sussex. It opened in 1816, closed in 1871 and is discussed in detail in Paul Vine's *London's Lost Route to the Sea*, David & Charles, Newton Abbot, 1965. As it suffered from a severe shortage of water, two windpumps were built in 1833 at Cranley (now Cranleigh) and Birtley to the north of the summit pound, at a total cost of £955. It seems that these pumps were never really satisfactory and they were sold at auction in 1853 for £54 (see Vine, p134). Jack Hampshire's father must have been referring to another mill which is not mentioned by Vine. It could have been Alfold Mill, which is discussed in Farries & Mason's *Windmills of Surrey and inner London*, Charles Skilton, 1966. This was a smock mill only few yards from the south bank of the summit bank. It was demolished in 1913, but by Jabez Nightingale and not Jack Hampshire's father. Also the timbers were used to renovate an old house in Lewes, across the border in Sussex, and was not sent to America. So, Alfold Mill does not really fit Donald Codling's story. Can anyone else help?

Donald Codling,  
c/o S.P.A.B.,  
37, Spital Square,  
London E1 6DY

## REPORT ON THE MINI MILL TOUR OF LONG ISLAND, RHODE ISLAND AND CAPE COD, 12 - 19 AUGUST 1992.

Peter Hill

Despite for the most part extremely inclement weather conditions, this mini mill tour in the USA proved a great success with the eighteen enthusiasts who had travelled to participate, from Australia, Japan, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA. The tour was in two parts, the first centred on Long Island, NY, organised by Charlie Howell, and the second, which included mills on Rhode Island and Cape Cod, organised by Jim Owens. Wind, water, tide and industrial mills were all visited, affording a good cross section of the milling history of the region.

The **windmills** in all three areas were of the traditional octagonal 'smock' design with shingled wooden towers and a variety of cap shapes.

Winding methods varied considerably from those mills with extremely long tail poles (a legacy of the earlier post mills) to those with exterior winding wheels, others with fan tails and two in Easthampton, L.I. with the unusual Dominey design of turning the sails to wind by means of an internal capstan operated on the ground floor. All had two sets of common sails and the method of clothing these varied from those reefed in the conventional method with a single cloth per sail to others in which each sail was clothed separately on either side of the stock.

Internally the machinery was for the most part basic, ranging from all wooden construction to those with cast iron gearing. Lantern pinion wheels were much in evidence, as were primitive but none the less effective locust wood brake bands. The product of these 'grist' mills as they are referred to was commmeal used for preparing commmeal bread and muffins; thus most mills had corn strippers and cob crushers as part of their auxiliary machinery.

The **watermills** were again shingled buildings with the power derived from either wooden external overshot wheels or from turbines. A 3-hour coach drive from Cape Cod took us north to Lowell, a planned water powered city with originally 91 mills, mainly textile, but here many other industries were water powered. Our prime destination was the Boott Cotton Mill and the Water Power Exhibition and, although there was insufficient time for all the viewing one would have wished, the visit proved a most interesting one.

Inevitably hiccups did occur - mills visited with no key holder to open up for us gave a measured amount of disappointment but the case of the lost tide mill will remain an unsolved mystery for all of us! None the less a good time was had by all and the hospitality shown to the whole party was overwhelming. We were much sought after by enthusiastic reporters at several of the mills and only just missed meeting a US senator at Stony Brook watermill. One of the newspapers referred to us as 'Mullinologists' - people who study mills ... from the vast quantity of rain that fell, perhaps muddinologists would have been a better mis-spelling!

The culmination of the tour came on the last evening when we were treated to a traditional Corn Bake and Lobster Boil with all the trimmings, truly a gastronomic delight with which to end a most enjoyable and enlightening tour.

Mills visited were: Oakdale Grist Mill at Connetquot Park; Saddle Rock Tide Mill; Stony Brook Watermill; the windmill and the watermill at Watermill; Beebe Mill, Bridgehampton, Pantic; Hook and Hayground windmills at Easthampton, Jamestown and Prescott Farm windmills on Rhode Island; Eastham Windmill; Brewster windmill and watermill; Orleans and Chatham windmills; Dexter watermill, Sandwich; Heritage Plantation windmill; Yarmouth wind and watermills; Baxter watermill; the industrial mill at Lowell.

Participants on the tour were: Keith Preston (Australia), Kenjiro Kawakami (Japan), Tom Meesters, Robbert Verkerk and Mr & Mrs R Nijhof (Netherlands), Kenneth Kephart, Derek Ogden, Ivins Smith and Steven Young (USA), Ken Church (Wales) and Jo Duggan, Frank Gregory, Joan and Peter Hill, Bill Howell, Leila and Owen Ward (England). Truly an international gathering!

## THE FRIENDS OF WEST BLATCHINGTON WINDMILL

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of West Blatchington Windmill was held on Thursday 28th January and was attended by over 70 'Friends' and members of the public. After the short formal proceedings and the customary refreshments the audience was entranced by an illustrated talk on 'The Early Pioneers of Sussex Cinema' given by Frank Gray from Sussex University. The talk included slides of some of the earliest scenes taken and a video film of recordings of such films as 'A Big Swallow', and 'Dorothy's Dream' by James Williamson and of course 'The Miller and the Sweep' by G.A. Smith filmed in front of the old post mill which stood on Brighton race-course. This perhaps was the earliest moving picture of the sails of a mill turning ever recorded. The talk was a most entertaining one and greatly appreciated by all who came along to the meeting.

The winter work-in at the mill is proceeding extremely well with the installation of a replica stone nut, new meal bin and spout, the completion of the smutter as a static exhibit and the construction of new stone furniture for the millstone which we put into position last year. Also with the erection of new display boards on the walls of the ground floor area we hope to present a much improved 'image' to the visitors immediately on entering the building. Hillborough Council, the owners of the mill, are currently funding the reinforcement of the S.E. corner of the West barn and repointing of the masonry of the barns and the flint and brick tower on which the mill is built.

PETER HILL

## HIGH SALVINGTON MILL

Story of "Roundstone" almost repeated

Many of our members will be familiar with the legend of "Roundstone" and the folk tale from which the garden centre under Highdown Hill got its name. For those who do not, the following is a very short summary.

There once stood a post mill on the south side of Highdown Hill, worked by John Olliver. When he died in 1793 with no one to take over, the mill became derelict. One winter's day during a heavy storm the mill was blown over. One of the millstones is said to have broken away and rolled on its edge all the way down the hill, finally knocking over and killing a farm labourer who was walking home after the day's toil.

A few weeks ago, we at High Salvington, which is the next high point of the Downs to the east, were reminded of this story. On arriving at the mill for our usual Sunday morning work session, we heard that a local resident had a millstone in her garden and we could have it for the taking away.

So, you can imagine a group of us manhandling a slightly worn but still very heavy stone on its edge and trundling it for half a mile to the mill site. Most of the way was downhill, so we were hard pressed to hold it in check. One shudders to think what could have happened if it had broken away. However, after nearly two hours of hard work and "encouraging" remarks between ourselves and from passers by, we reached the mill safely, and although its useful life as a corn grinder is over, it will make an interesting addition to the grounds.

We speculate as to whether it did in fact originally come from our mill.

PETER PEARCE

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SUSSEX MILLS GROUP

The meeting was held on Friday 26th February 1993 at Bridge Cottage, Uckfield starting at 8.00 p.m. There were 30 people present. The meeting opened with a welcome to all present by B. Pike, Chairman. Apologies for absence were received from J. Muddle and N. Kelly.

### 1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes for the meeting held on 28th February 1992 as published in the *S.I.A.S. Newsletter* No.74 for April 1992, and also circulated at the meeting, were adopted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that would not be covered by the agenda.

### 3. Report by the Chairman

The Chairman thanked all the committee for their work and support during the last year. The matter of mill safety was becoming a much more difficult problem. There has not been a serious accident at Sussex mills in recent years, perhaps we have been lucky. There have been discussions with a Health and Safety Consultant at Jill Windmill and it would seem that we will have to be much more conscious of the safety of visitors and workers. I believe that we have been but that we must now show this both in notices, signs, training and recording actions. Helpers need to be fully trained for their jobs and need to know what to do if things go wrong. One of the problems is that rule makers do not understand the problems of voluntary work and the great problems of getting helpers. All the new instructions assume there is one person in charge with all the responsibility involved. It is almost impossible to get any unpaid volunteer to take this on. I have asked the S.P.A.B. for advice to ensure that all mill societies are working to the same regulations.

### 4. Report by the Secretary

The secretary reported on an active year including participation in National Mills Day in 1992 with some response from the local media. A mills tour led by Peter Pearce in August and a meeting in October at the British Engineerium were well supported in spite of people having work to do at their local mill. Tea towels are still doing well with P. Hill reporting that a further supply had been ordered. The leaflet on Sussex Mills Group was spreading with an increasing request to the group for information and assistance.

### 5. Election of Chairman

Sir F. Sowrey took the chair and congratulated the Group on their work especially the work of the committee. There was unanimous agreement that as there were no other nominations for Chairman that B. Pike be re-elected to that position. B. Pike resumed the chair.

### 6. Election of Secretary

There was unanimous agreement that as there were no other nominations for Secretary that D. H. Cox be re-elected to that position.

### 7. Election of the Committee

There was unanimous agreement that as there were no other nominations for committee members that F. Gregory, P. Hill, T. Martin, P. Pearce, J. Muddle, S. Potter be re-elected to form the committee.

### 8. Any Other Business

The Chairman reported that Argos windmill at Mayfield would now be open on six occasions this coming year. Also that Nutley windmill were having celebrations on National Mills Day and all were welcome. A request for information concerning Rock Mill at Washington was received. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

The meeting was followed by a talk by P. Hill and his visit to the mills of America. (see *Newsletter* for full report).

The following letter has been received:-

Further to my enquiry in the last *SIAS Newsletter* about the date and manner of Peasmarsch smock mill's disappearance, I have also tried various other sources and these have proved most useful. Letters to local papers in the Hastings/Rye area produced several informative replies, one of them from the man who demolished the mill in 1943. I have also obtained a copy of a photograph taken during the First World War which shows the mill in working order.

I am sorry if this has rendered futile the efforts of any members who have been attempting to find the information I asked for; I thank them for their labours. If they have any other information relating to this mill, though, I should be very pleased to receive it.

I feel a regular feature in the *Newsletter* dealing with a particular bygone Sussex windmill or watermill each issue would be a very good thing. What do others think?

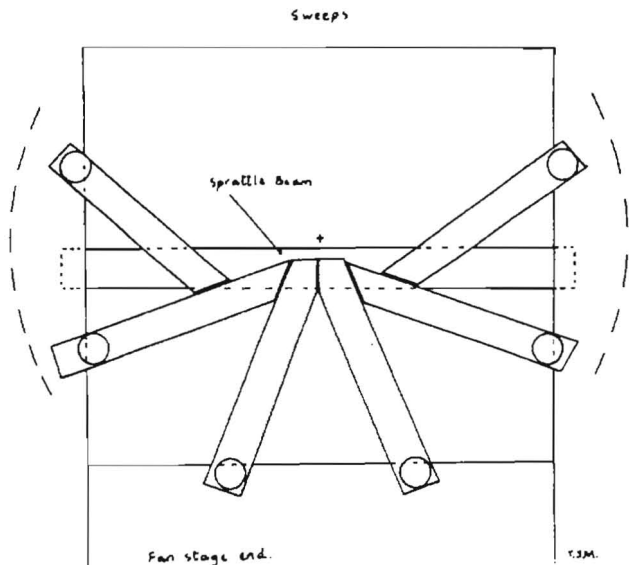
Yours sincerely,

Guy Blythman

### CLOSED SEASON WORK AT POLEGATE WINDMILL

Throughout the last closed season work has been progressing on the finishing of the new entrance and the improvement of facilities and displays in the Museum.

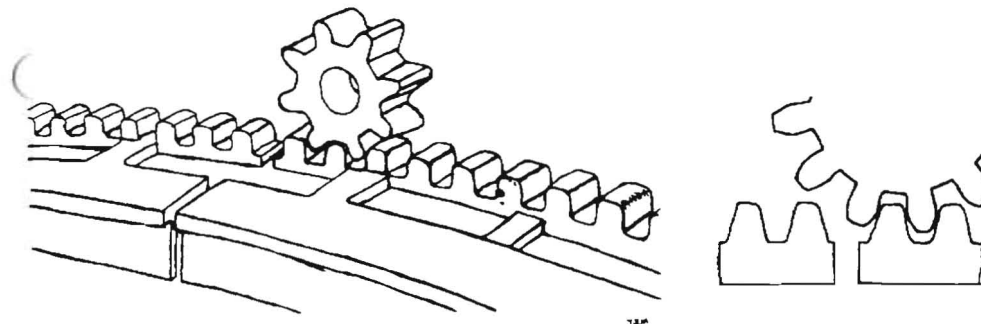
The last project undertaken this year was to centre the cap and replace the truck wheel beams. The centring of the cap and the efficient working of the winding gear has been a problem since the cap was rebuilt in 1987. The first setback was the 1987 storm which pushed it off centre and split out the joint on the rear truck wheel beams.



Layout of truck wheel beams viewed from below

Replacement beams were purchased then and have been in store to complete the job ever since.

When the new curb was fitted to the tower, a replacement track was cast up to replace the many broken bits of original track. The new sections were fitted and held down to the curb in the same manner as the original. We were under the impression its original failure to work in allowing the cap to turn was due to the uneven level caused by the subsidence of the broken track into the rotten curb timbers. When the cap had first been rebuilt in 1967, it was only able to turn through a distance of around 40 degrees. This was also the case in January, the reason being that two portions of the track had moved outward by about 0.5", causing a gap between the teeth in which the pinion runs to be enlarged at the joint between the sections of the track. This enlargement was greater than the tolerance of the pinion, causing it to jam up and put undue stress on the out of mesh teeth.



We have solved this 1817 design problem by incorporating a steel band around the inner rim of the curb which provides an even working surface for the truck wheels and holds the track in position with itself.

The works were carried out by Ian Clark, who has undertaken a number of projects for Polegate Windmill.

**TIM MARTIN**  
Structural Adviser (Polegate Windmill)

### POLEGATE WINDMILL 1993 EVENTS

Throughout this summer Polegate Windmill will be holding special events in addition to being open as normal on Sunday afternoons (April-September), Bank Holiday Monday afternoons and Wednesday afternoons in August (2pm - 5pm):

Sweeps Turning (Wind permitting)	Oat Crushing	Talks (2pm)
11th April	25th April	18th April
2nd May	16th May	31st May
23rd May	6th June	27th June
13th June	4th July	25th July
11th July	1st August	15th August
5th August	22nd August	19th September
8th August	5th September	
12th August		
19th August		
26th August		
30th August		
26th September		