

5. HES Simmons Collection.
6. *Ibid*
7. *Ibid*
8. *Ibid*
9. *HASLO* 4 Feb 1961.
10. HES Simmons Collection.
11. Various articles and letters in *HASLO*, February 1961.
12. *HASLO*, 18 June 1966

I am indebted to Mr. Brian Purdey of Hastings Central Library for drawing my attention to the relevant newspaper articles.

GUY BLYTHMAN

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 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 THE APRIL NEWSLETTER IS 6th JUNE 1994

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CHIEF CONTENTS

Sussex County Magazine
 Cheltenham Place Malthouse, Brighton
 The Local Historian
 The Identity of Arundel's Ruins
 Sussex Iron Trades: Three Aspects
 Oil in Sussex
 Sussex Mills Group News

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1994

- Sunday 8 May National Mills Day
 Contact Don Cox (0403-711137)
- Wednesday 1 June Visit to Freshfield Lane Brickworks (TQ 385262)
 Contact Freddie Sowrey (0825-712964)
- Saturday 25 June Visit to the Wey and Arun Canal. Pub lunch available
 at the Onslow Arms, Loxwood (TQ 041311)
 Contact Tony Baxter (0903-201002)
- Wednesday 16 July Town visit to Faversham with guided tour.
 Cost £3 per head. Members wishing to attend must
 book with Bob Allen by 15 June. The visit commences at
 11.00 a.m. and Bob Allen will provide details of the
 assembly point. Shared transport may be possible. If you
 want or can provide a lift please call Bob Allen.
**Please note that this visit is advertised on
 the programme for 27 July but the date
 has had to be altered.**
 Contact Bob Allen (0323-896724)
- Saturday 6 August Mystery Tour of Mills, starting at Hempstead Water
 Mill, Uckfield, at 10.30 a.m. (TQ 483217).
 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.

SUSSEX COUNTY MAGAZINE

I have recently purchased a large box of SCMs from an Eastbourne shop and idly browsing through them with a glass of festive cheer I came across some interesting I.A. articles. There is an index to SCM in the County Record Offices and main libraries, however the references are to

main articles, and as these form only part of the magazine there is a wealth of detail missed. Advertisements, editorial comment, readers letters and rejoinders to past articles all have slid through the index compilers net.

As an example I will refer to one random magazine - No. 7 of volume IX July 1935. Inside the cover are adverts for Southdown Motors holiday tours and Lewes motors Ltd of Western Road with £308 Riley Kestrels on offer. Three further pages of ads. include a restorer of old Sussex buildings - telephone Forest Row 9 and flying lessons from Ford Aerodrome - trial lesson 10/6d. *County Notes*, two pages of editorial comment, has pieces on the growth of Bognor Regis, exploration in Worth Forest for oil, road improvements on class one highways. *Eighteenth Century Scene* is a compilation of articles from the *Sussex Weekly Advertiser* with accounts of tea smugglers at Maresfield and at Eastbourne. *The Market Place* is the small ads. section and contains much to interest members, even if only to recollect long gone businesses and traders. I make no apology for including here my grandfather's business Mead & Co. of Bond Street, Brighton - auctioneers, removers, warehouse men and provincial carriers.

In addition to the indexed and peripheral articles it often pays to actually read some of the main pieces which, on the surface, appear to have little of I.A. interest in their titles. Thus in editorial reviewed above there is an article by the well known Sussex writer Maude Robinson on "Child life on the South Downs in the sixties". Of interest to the Society Secretary would be the first paragraph:-

"It was no small advantage to live within six miles of so large a town [at Saddlescombe] but what a different Brighton it was in the sixties. It was quite a matter of course when a team of six red oxen lumbered up North St. bringing a wagon load of exceedingly dirty ice from a farmyard pond to be stored for the summer in an "ice-house" at the foot of Church Hill.

There are other references to Brighton shops and taverns and the Corn Exchange that was located in the old King and Queen in Marlborough Place; Maude Robinson's father was instrumental in having the Exchange moved from the pub to more sober surroundings (he was a Quaker) in a public hall in Church St.

Most lovers of local history have a copy or two of *SCM* tucked away on their shelves, perhaps they could also 'trawl' their volumes for hidden items that would interest other members.

GEOFFREY MEAD

CHELTENHAM PLACE MALHOUSE, BRIGHTON

Brighton is soon to lose another Victorian industrial building when the former malthouse at 40 Cheltenham Place is demolished after standing empty for the last four years.

When the brothers William Grover and Silvanus, Ashby purchased the Bedford Brewery in Sillwood street and the Castle brewery in nearby Castle street they obviously found the malthouse adjoining the Bedford brewery inadequate for their needs as they immediately set about building the larger house in Cheltenham Place that was open for business by mid 1854. The partnership continued until the death of William Grover Ashby in 1905 when brother Silvanus and and William's son Louis Cecil sold the business to Smithers & Sons who owned Brighton's North Street Brewery, Louis Cecil becoming a director.

Smithers had no use for the brewery sites which they resold, but operated the malthouse until 1913 when an amalgamation with Brighton's West Street Brewery brought the much larger Kingston malthouse at Shoreham into their ownership.

No further mention is made of the malthouse in the trade directories until 1924 when the building is recorded as being used by Reynolds & Co. (Brighton) Ltd - Wholesale Grocers and in whose ownership it was to remain until 1938. Messrs. Alfred Button & Sons Ltd are recorded

as the owners from 1949 to 1966, the final owners being The Great British T Shirt Co. Ltd who left by 1990.

From its present day appearance, that has changed little over the years even with the change of use, it appears to have had two malting floors with a top floor (removed by later owners) used probably for storage. The kiln was on the west end and the conical flue remained intact to the present day although all traces of the fire-grate and drying floor had been removed by subsequent owners. There appears to have been space at the east end of the ground floor to accommodate the steeping cistern or trough although there were no obvious traces when Ron Martin and I inspected the site on 29 October 1993. The ground floor with its 6ft. headroom, roof iron pillars and row of windows for ventilation gave a good idea of the former condition although the upper floor had been much altered by later users. A room with charcoal encrusted walls presumably for smoking bacon by the grocers was located to the south of the kiln. Only the west elevation had been altered by a main doorway through the kiln area for access from Cheltenham Place. The wording "Wholesale Grocers" could just be made out in the wall decoration.

Although of no great beauty or even architectural merit it is a pity that some further use could not have been found for this interesting old building. Fortunately it has been possible to record it for posterity.

PETER HOLTHAM

THE LOCAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of the British Association for Local History *The Local Historian* often has items that would interest our members. Volume 23 No. 3 for August 1993 has an article by J.D. Marshall of University of Lancaster, Reader Emeritus in Regional History on "Industrial Colonies and the Local Historian." The title leads one to think first of all of such examples as Port Sunlight or New Lanark but Dr. Marshall dispels this avenue as unrepresentative and looks at those that 'Topsy-like just grewed'. These included the Thames-side fishermen's quarter of Oxford, the quarry and clay pit labourers of Headington Quarry nearby and nearer our territory Lord Montague's 1727 shipbuilding colony at Bucklers Hard.

Inevitably his article concentrates on the highly industrial North West - Dean Mills, Bolton and the iron mining colonies around Cleator Moor in the former West Cumberland which were nearly 60% Irish catholic communities, referred to as "little Ireland"

Marshall gives emphasis to common toil binding communities in a way that agricultural workers rarely did - "A community of miners or weavers may share the common interest of working in the same place whereas the ties that would otherwise unite the rural village-dwellers are spread over two dozen farms and perhaps three or four townships. This point may gain in sharpness if we recollect that agriculture is also an industry."

With the rapid decline of the U.K. manufacturing and mining sectors these studies of industrial colonies have a particular poignancy.

GEOFFREY MEAD

NEW PLAQUE REVEALS TRUE IDENTITY OF ARUNDEL'S RUINS

The true identity of the medieval ruins on Mill Road, Arundel was publicly revealed when a new plaque was officially unveiled by the Countess of Arundel on 16 December last. The plaque, which has been provided by the Arundel Society, with assistance from West Sussex County Council, explains that the building was a Dominican friary built during the second

quarter of the 13th century – and was not the hospital of the Holy Trinity or Maison Dieu, founded for the aged and infirm poor over 100 years later. The truth about the building came to light while Dr. Timothy Hudson, Editor of the Victoria County History for Sussex, was carrying out research into the history of Arundel.

He discovered that the building was first referred to as the Maison Dieu in a note in *The Gentleman's Magazine* in 1793, and has been identified as such by nearly every writer since. However, a 1780 drawing by SH Grimm bears the caption "The Chapel of the Friary at Arundel" while a late-medieval account roll at Arundel Castle refers to a boathouse near the cloister of the Friars Preachers or Dominicans.

In addition, when the site was partially excavated during the 1960s, Rouen pottery of 1280-1320 was found, suggesting the area was occupied well before the hospital was founded by Richard, Earl of Arundel in 1395.

The new plaque explains that the friary was possibly established by Isabel, Countess of Arundel. By 1300 there were 20 Blackfriars living on the premises, but the number declined until only five remained at the time of the dissolution. Virtually all that survives of the buildings today are a part of the friary's south range, although it is not clear what its function was, and parts of the north range.

The Friary was dissolved in 1538 and its buildings were converted to other uses. For a time, the south range contained a timber yard and the west range a malthouse. Mill Road was built across the site in 1894, with the remains of the south range given to the town in 1935 by the 16th Duke of Norfolk. The information on the plaque reveals that the Maison Dieu stood west of St. Nicholas's churchyard. Dr. Hudson's research suggests that this site was a far more likely location for the hospital, since all but the most infirm inmates were required to say noon prayers in the church and weed the churchyard walks.

Both activities would have been difficult to carry out if it was necessary to climb the length of the steep High Street from Mill Road.

SUSSEX IRON – THREE ASPECTS

1. Discovery of ancient Ashburnham guns from the *Sussex County Magazine*, Vol.16 No.1 1942.

A most interesting article appeared in the December number 1941 of the *National Geographic Magazine* in reference to the raising of guns from a sunken British ship near the coast of Florida.

Operations commenced in the early part of 1939 when 28 guns were raised and 20 more seen. All were encrusted with a thick coat of coral. Other articles found were: a silver porringer, brass candle holders, cannon balls, sheet lead and copper coins.

On chipping the coral from one of the 9ft. guns a complete crest was exposed, comprising a Maltese cross, Orb, Crown and Tudor Rose also the letters T.W.

The British Admiralty, on being informed stated "that the wreck was probably that of HMS Winchester, a fourth-rate of sixty guns and 933 tons, commanded by Captain John Soule, which was lost off Cape Florida on 24th September 1695, returning to England from Jamaica, and that the founders mark on the gun T.W. was probably the initials of Thomas Westerne who was carrying on a gun foundry at Ashburnham in Sussex in the years 1669-88." The Westerne family also carried on the Iron Works at Brede for some years.
[Contributor] Edmund Austen (Brede)

2. Earliest Bombs

from the *Sussex County Magazine* – Vol.16 No.1 1942

In 1861 there was in *Notes and Queries* [Sussex Archaeological Society] a discussion concerning the first use of bombs – "The first use of an iron ball named the bomb". It was stated that a bomb was thrown into Nijmegen by the Prince of Orange in 1590; but one correspondent pointed out that in Rymer's *Foedera* there is a record of mortars for bomb-shells being cast in Buxted, in Sussex in 1543. The mechanics employed were two Flemings named Ralph Page (Hollingshead named him Rafe Hoge) and Peter Baude.
[Contributed by] Cestrian.

3. Sussex Woods and Ironworks

from the *Sussex County Magazine* – Vol.11 No.2 Feb 1937

...It may be of interest to recall the instructions given by a Sussex landowner, Sir John Pelham in 1579 to his wife for the future treatment of the woods in his manors in the Rape of Hastings. "With these manors, he says in his will, "I have certain iron-mills and divers young and copised woods the which young woods I will that my wife for the better augmenting of her living shall take with ore and mine yearly during her life for the necessary making of sowes and iron within the said iron mills provided that she shall not take nor employ any of my great woods with any of my said manors and lands, that is to say any such of my woods there as have not been heretofore cut down within this last forty years last past; also I will that my wife shall see all such woods as she shall cut down and employ to that use that the places where the wood stands to be incopied for the preservation of the spring of that woodland for the better continuance of wood there"

From Sussex Record Society III page 146 H.V Braham
GEOFFREY MEAD

OIL IN SUSSEX?

from the *Sussex County Magazine* – Volume VIII May 1934.

County Notes by the Editor and friends.

"One hears with mixed feelings of the possible discovery of oil in Worth Forest where, I understand, a syndicate has been engaged in boring operations for the last two years, and an examination of photographs of the apparatus in use and its effects on the landscape only serves to encourage one's fears of what may happen should oil be found in sufficient quantities to make the discovery a commercial proposition. Should that be the result of the present experiments one may expect Worth Forest to become the Black Country Sussex never was in the days of the iron industry. An enterprise of this kind would not be confined to the mere boring of wells; it would mean the erection of ugly derricks, of unsightly storage tanks, the monstrosity of a refinery, the laying of rails or pipelines for transport and the ruin of vegetation.

Such a rape of the landscape could surely not be looked upon with equanimity by lovers of rural Sussex. It would be a strange irony if the investigations of the company associated with the name of the first Lord Cowdray – which I understand once prepared a report on oil sites in Britain – were in any way responsible for the discovery of oil in the county in which he had a seat and from which he derived his title."

The SCM of November 1934 carried a continuance of the story –

"Readers may remember that some few months ago I deplored the fact that oil boring operations were taking place in Tilgate Forest [first article had Worth Forest – G.M.]. Now I learn that after operations which have extended over a period of three years these have been abandoned. It seems that after reaching a depth of 1,900 feet it has been discovered that oil does not exist in sufficient quantities to be a commercial proposition."

The following year in the *SCM* Vol.IX July 1935 No. 7 appeared a further note – “Notwithstanding the assurance from interested quarters that prospecting for oil-gushers in Sussex will not involve the disfigurement of the countryside, there is a grave anxiety felt on the part of nature-lovers over the possibilities which may lie in wait at Worth, where boring it is stated, is shortly to take place with modern appliances. It is declared that Worth is “one of the most promising of the British oil locations, the geological formation there being similar to that in Hanover, from which Germany has obtained much of her oil supplies. Worth is also at present one of the most unspoiled parts of Sussex, and though we are told there need be no conspicuous evidence of the presence of an oil well “other than a 120 ft. derrick” the assurance is hardly likely to evoke a feeling of satisfaction among people who may visualise series of 120 ft. derricks with pipelines and reservoirs springing up in the Sussex forest area. If there is underground wealth beneath the beauty of the Sussex landscape nothing can stop the hunt for it by hopeful industrialists, though it is to be remembered that large sums of money have, in various parts of England, been sunk in recent years on oil prospecting which has produced no adequate return. But in any case every possible endeavour, both public and private, should be made to minimise disfiguration by prospecting in areas at present unspoiled, and in those efforts even the prospectors themselves may well be invited to co-operate, in their own interests as well as in that of their neighbours.

On 11 May 1986 the *West Sussex Gazette* carried a small piece on “New oil search in Sussex”, where Conoco was seeking permission to drill in Holstein Wood, West Hoathly (nice link here with the 1935 German oil field) and at Balcombe, Brook Street. By September of that year the County Planning Committee gave the go-ahead possibly swayed by assurances that “only one tree would have to be cut down and that is already falling into the road anyway”

The *Evening Argus* of 22 August 1987 carried a geological joke (is this a record?) with its by-line “£9M gamble runs into the sands,” after sinking a 4000 ft. drill test showed another dry well near Turners Hill. With each of 12 county boreholes costing £750,000 and only one showing results, they were moving testing to Surrey.

I am sure there is more to come on this continuing saga, however it is rather strange writing about a Sussex industry that never was!

GEOFFREY MEAD

LOOKING FOR LIDOS!

As a tail-piece to my article in the last *Newsletter* I should like to make a request. I am hoping to do a typological survey of lidos and pools within the county and would be grateful if members could kindly inform me of any that they know about. I am interested only in recording traditional lidos or “elderly” pools, i.e. those whose buildings and surrounds have some architectural or historical merit. I am not interested in modern swim centres with tropical interiors, flumes, etc.! So, if there is a lido in or near the town where you live, please check whether I know about it! You can use my article as a starting point – if it doesn't get a mention then I probably don't, but I would be delighted to hear from you in any case, as you may have information on it that can be added to the record sheet. You may telephone me on 0903 813603 or write to me at “Barnack”, Goring Road, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3GF. I look forward to hearing from you!

The “Lido Lady” (alias DIANA DURDEN)

NEWS FROM AMBERLEY MUSEUM

The Museum is now entering its 16th season. Since opening in 1979, the Museum has developed into an important regional Museum and a major tourist attraction. Last year we

attracted our second highest visitor numbers ever and we are looking forward to 1994 with confidence.

During the autumn the first phase of work was completed on the Roadmakers project. With the Worshipful Company of Paviers we are jointly developing a major museum exhibition about the history of Roads and Roadmaking based around the Tanyard building. A new introductory building has been built onto the north end of this building and work will start shortly to glaze in the front of the Tanyard building to make a fully enclosed exhibition area. This area will display large items from our road making collection and ‘new’ doors at the south end, rescued from the demolished Bognor Bus Garage, will allow the vehicles to get in and out. We are working on the exhibition at present and hope to be able to open it to visitors during this season.

As part of the same scheme we have built a workshop and exhibit store, to replace our inadequate facilities, on the western side of the Tanyard building helped by a grant from the Museums and Galleries Commission.

During the winter months the Museum always remains a hive of activity as improvements are made for the new season. This winter the Museum print shop has been improved and extended and the adjacent machine shop has had a period drawing office included as part of the display. Visitors will also notice a new building being erected in our timberyard. This was a woodyard building rescued from the new route of the A23 near Handcross and will house the Museum's broommaker, Arthur Haffenden.

The Museum's season begins on March 23rd and an early highlight of the season is our Veteran Cycle Day on Sunday 17th April. Cycles of all shapes and sizes from the boneshaker of the 1860s through to the Moulton of the 1960s will be at the Museum and many will be seen in action.

I hope that you will be able to visit us in 1994.

ROBERT S. TAYLOR
Director

The following special event days are planned at the Museum:-

Sunday 17 April
VETERAN CYCLE DAY

A rare and fascinating gathering, covering a century of cycles in all shapes and sizes from the Boneshaker of the 1860s through to the Moulton of the 1960s.

Sunday 22 May
VINTAGE COMMERCIAL VEHICLE RALLY

Featuring a colourful variety of vintage lorries and vans, recovery vehicles, fire engines, military vehicles and other specialised vehicles.

Sat/Sun 2/3 July
RAILWAY GALA WEEKEND

Two days of special displays, demonstrations and photo opportunities, along with visiting exhibitions and other attractions.

Sunday 11 September
WIRELESS SUNDAY

Displays and demonstrations of early radio sets, plus modern amateur radio and television equipment in action.

Sunday 18 September
SOUTH COAST BUS RALLY

Special gathering of historic buses from South Coast town operators to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of motor buses operation in Worthing and the surrounding area.

Sunday 25 September
THE WOODWORKING SHOW

Demonstrations by craftsmen, displays of tools, vehicles and machinery, plus our steam timber crane and rack saw in action.

Sunday 9 October
AUTUMN INVITATION VINTAGE VEHICLE GATHERING

Featuring vintage vehicles of all types, including steam traction engines, vintage cars, motorcycles, commercial vehicles, buses etc.

In addition to the events organised by the Museum and listed above, there are also a number of other events at Amberley throughout the year organised by one-make car clubs and other bodies.

For further details of any of these events, please contact:
Amberley Museum,
Amberley,
Arundel,
West Sussex, BN18 9LT.
Tel: 0798 831370.

MILLS IN FILMS

In the last *Newsletter* there was an article on mills featured in films and television and an Alfred Hitchcock film was mentioned but the title was unknown. I believe the film referred to was "Foreign Correspondent" starring Joel McCrea and Lorraine Day which was a World War II spy story partly set in Holland. One exciting part of the film was when Joel McCrea's raincoat became caught up in the machinery as he was trying to hide inside a windmill. It has been shown many times on the TV. I thought someone might be interested in this piece of information.

PHILIP HICKS

A.I.A. CONFERENCE 7-13 SEPTEMBER WINCHESTER

The A.I.A. conference and associated visits to places of I.A. interest is being held near Winchester from 7-13 September. It is being organised by two members of our society, Tony and Mary Yoward? Tony is a past chairman of the Southampton University I.A. group. The visits look very interesting and well planned. Members of societies affiliated to the A.I.A. are entitled to a discount if booked by 7 May. Further details from our General Hon. Secretary, Ron Martin.

HISTORIC AERONAUTICAL SITES

A symposium is to be held in Winchester on Wednesday 22 June 1994 by Southampton University I.A. group and the Hampshire County Council Historic Buildings Bureau. It concerns the recording, protection and development of historic aeronautical sites. Further information and application forms available from: Mr. J.D. Asteraki, SUAG, 122 Reading Road, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG11 4RA.

DAY SCHOOL SUSSEX UNIVERSITY

There will be a day school on Sussex Industrial History (NOT this society's publication) including an afternoon field trip. The fee is £15 for the day. Concessions £10. Tutor - Geoff Mead. For further details please phone 0273 - 678527.

ADULT EDUCATION - FIELD TRIPS

This summer I shall be conducting a series of field trips for the University of Sussex Centre for Continuing Education. Starting the first week in June there will be the three separate classes of six weeks each under these headings:-

7 p.m. Mondays - Guided walks around central Brighton, meeting at the Pavilion North Gate.

7 p.m. Tuesdays - Sussex Industrial History - Car rambles to spots of industrial history.
One opening class at the University plus five field trips.

7 p.m. Wednesdays - Sussex Landscapes - Car rambles to spots of landscape interest.
One opening class at the University plus five field trips.

Venues for visits are not fixed at present, so if members interested contact me with suggestions I may be able to tailor the trips to their ideas.

Most trips last two hours depending on weather and light levels, and have been known to end up at a hostelry...!

GEOFFREY MEAD

Enquiries:- Sussex University - 0273 678527
Geoff Mead - 0273 501590



SUSSEX MILLS
GROUP



Don't forget National Mills Day on May 8th 1994. Please support this by helping/going to the mills that are open.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SUSSEX MILLS GROUP

The meeting was held on Friday 4th March 1994 at The Friends Meeting House, Lewes starting at 8.00 p.m. There were 29 people present. The meeting opened with a welcome to all present

by B. Pike, Chairman. Apologies for absence were received from L. Stevens, G. Blythman and Capt. A. Smalley.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes for the meeting held on 26th February 1993 as published in the *SIAS Newsletter* No. 78 for April 1993, and also circulated at the meeting, were adopted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. Matters Arising

P. Hill showed some samples of the tea towel printed on to various coloured backgrounds. It was decided to use the blue colourway on the next batch which are printed.

3. Report by the Chairman

The Chairman thanked all the committee for their work and support during the last year. At the end of the group's fifth year, he felt that it was time to review our progress. Much has been achieved with regard to promoting the preservation and restoration of mills, particularly the windmills at Stone cross, Windmill Hill and Nutbourne; also Hempstead and Ratham water mills. We have also been successful in providing a forum for related societies, although there is little to show that we are becoming well-known. The tea towels and leaflets have been a success and the publicity for National Mills Day has been extremely good. On the whole we must be proud of what we have done over these five years, especially as we are all involved with other societies.

4. Report by the Secretary

During 1993 the Group has carried on with its pattern of meetings as in previous years. The annual meeting saw the re-election of the existing committee, and activities for the year have been as follows:-

The distribution of some 5000 of the leaflet on Sussex Mills open to the public, which was well received in spite of two bad mistakes.

In May National Mills Day was celebrated at most mills by opening to the public. Also during May, P. Pearce organised a tour of Sussex Mills for S.P.A.B. members.

A working party spent a day in August cleaning out Ratham Watermill in preparation for a mills tour the following week, which also took in Coultershaw, Barnham and Burlesdon Windmill (Hampshire).

An open meeting was held in October for general discussion on mill matters related to opening to the public. This was a Success with 10 mills represented and will be repeated next year in Polegate.

During the year, several exchange visits have taken place with the Friends groups at High Salvington, Coultershaw, Shipley and Jack and Jill. Over the past six months, the Chairman and Secretary of the Mills Group have been trying to obtain possession of Stone Cross Windmill. So far we have had ten meetings with various people, a trust has been set up with Management Committee and an agreement signed. The new owners of Windmill Hill windmill are keen to restore the mill to working order. We have talked with them regarding a Trust and various members have assisted in protecting the mill building.

5. Election of Chairman

The Secretary took the chair. 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. Cox be re-elected to that position. He was willing to continue until the next Annual Meeting but would not be seeking re-election thereafter. Mrs. L. Potter offered to work alongside D. Cox until the next Annual meeting with a view to taking over from him then.

7. Election of the committee

There was unanimous agreement that as there were no other nominations for Committee

members that F. Gregory, P. Hill, P. James, T. Martin, J. Muddle, P. Pearce, and S. Potter be re-elected to form the Committee. R. Martin proposed that Mrs. L. Potter be elected to the Committee. This was seconded by J. Blackwell.

8. Any Other Business

R. Martin reported that a teachers' pack based on Ifield watermill had been produced. He also reported that he has been carrying out a structural survey at Windmill Hill. B. Pike spoke briefly about the National Mills Day publicity material despatched recently by S.P.A.B. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

The meeting was followed by a talk on 'Unknown water mills in Sussex' by D. Cox.

NOTES FROM THE HON. SECRETARY

Stone Cross – Public meeting held on 2nd February 1994

This meeting was called by the Mills Group to discuss publicly the setting up of a Trust to take over responsibility for the mill from the present owner. Brian Pike and myself were very gratified and pleased to have approx. 150 people turn out to attend the meeting. What was also pleasing was the attendance of several members of the Mills Group to support our efforts. I am sure that their verbal support encouraged people to come forward to help the mill.

We started by explaining the background to meeting in that the present owner has requested permission to build a bungalow adjacent to the mill. Wealden District Council have decided that in return for the permission the mill should be given to a Trust and land around the mill be leased to that same Trust. We have stepped in to assist and advise in the setting up of such a Trust. Some slides of the mill in its present condition were then shown by Tim Martin. We next explained the idea of a Trust and how it would operate. Three people had already agreed to be Trustees. We then talked about a Management Committee and asked for people to give their names during the coffee break that followed. I had 16 people come forward to offer help in various capacities with several others stating that they would assist in minor ways. Of the names taken two are district councillors. We reconvened after refreshments for a general discussion. We finally agreed that the volunteers would meet in two weeks time for further discussion.

Finally a thank you. First to Steven and Elizabeth Hoath for paying for the printing of 500 leaflets advertising the above meeting and then to the Stone Cross Memorial Hall for allowing us to use the hall for the meeting free of charge.

Since the above meeting the Trust and Management Committee have met twice and are now finally established. They are meeting to discuss the constitution for Stone Cross Mill Trust. There are three trustees, two of whom are members. On Friday 4 March 1994 the Trust signed the legal document confirming the planning agreement between Wealden District Council and the owner Simon Hall. The Trust were partners to that agreement where the owner will have planning permission to build a bungalow alongside the mill provided he negotiates with the Trust to accept full responsibility for the mill. (This includes giving the mill to the Trust and leasing – for 999 years – some land around the mill to the same Trust.)

Jill Windmill

Please note the revised opening times of 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. on Sundays and Bank Holidays, from May to September.

Windmill Hill Mill

At the request of the new owners of the mill, Brian Pike and myself went and saw them to discuss the future of the mill. They are keen to see the mill restored but accept that they do not have the time or the finance. They are confident that they have the organisational skills and are

considering setting up a Trust mainly for assistance with financial matters and technical skills. We have promised our full co-operation and assistance. Ron Martin is in the process of measuring the mill and producing drawings.

The outside of the mill has had the metal cladding removed and wooden boards fixed in place by builders. Several members rallied to the call to coat the boarding with preservative while there was still scaffolding around the outside.

Mills for sale

The Mill House, Angmering is for sale with a price guide of £349,000 freehold. The tower mill has four floors as living accommodation. No cap or machinery exists. It adjoins the house extension but could be used separately.

The Mill, Craighouse, Isle of Jura, Argyll is also for sale. Said to be restorable but it is a long way to go for a weekend of work.

DON COX

OLDLAND MILL, KEYMER

Work commenced on the Roof Frame in early September and was completed in mid-October, and consisted of the engagement of the upper breast beam and windshaft tail tie with the top rails. The fitting of the breast and tail jowels has also been proven.

A sample hand forged steel trestle strap has been offered for assessment at no cost, and if satisfactory it will be finished and fitted. A further two will be required. Work also continues on the crown post base feature.

A temporary floor has been built in order to dismantle the brake wheel, brake shoes and lever, as well as the associated machinery. The breast oat bin has been dismantled; the sack hoist and sack hoist drive items have also been removed.

The wire machine and associated hoppers, including the blender mechanism, have been dismantled.

The brake wheel components are currently being recorded and drawn up, while the other components have been labelled.

There is now an urgent need for scaffolding and fittings in order that the mill may be dismantled and rebuilt with the minimum of delay. A plea PLEASE for offers and/or sponsorship. Please contact A.J. Annett on 0273-843573 or write to 99, Dale Avenue, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8LR.

A. JOHN ANNETT

MILL ILLUSTRATIONS IN BOOKS

England of One Hundred Years Ago - Photographic collection West Sussex. Alan Sutton (1992)
Originally £9.99, in shops now at £6.99.

All of the 28 photographs are sized 260 x 185 and stated as suitable for framing. Of those 28 photographs, six include mills:-

No.2 The Old Mill. Morth Mill in Midhurst 1905. Unfortunately the mill is partly obscured by trees.

No.4 A Day in the Sun. Littlehampton Pier and Harbour. 1898. Has the windmill in the background.

No.7 Mill Race. The Mill at Fittleworth.

A good view of the mill showing water coming from one of the three arches of the mill race.

No.12 Village Green, Wisborough Green 1896.

Has the windmill in the background.

No.17 Millstream. Town Mill at Horsham 1891. The mill again is partly obscured by trees.

No.18 Three bridges. Hazlewick Mill 1906. A good picture of the mill.

Some of the other photographs also have I.A. interest.

Another book reported to me but not seen -

Sussex - Painted by Wilfred Ball. Adan and Charles, London, price about £65.

This is a copy of writings with paintings of around Sussex by Wilfred Ball.

the index the following could be of interest:-

Page 29 Malling Mill.

Page 30 Fishbourne Mill.

Page 34 Bosham (Mill Bridge)

Page 53 Winchelsea Mill.

Page 55 Angmering Mill.

Page 60 Fittleworth Water Mill.

Page 68 Old Whiting Mill, Midhurst.

Page 69 Mill Pool, Midhurst.

If any member has seen this book and can comment on the pictures I would be obliged.

DON COX

PROPOSED PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION OF SUSSEX WINDMILLS

For some time I have been attempting to build up a photographic collection of all Sussex windmills which survived after c.1880. I'm particularly interested in the following:-

Hammond's Mill, Billingshurst (Smock mill, demolished by 1920.)

Heathfield, Mutton Hall post mill.

Chailey, South Common smock mill.

Ringmer, Broyle Mill (post mill, disappeared in the 1900s; not to be confused with the mill whose centre post still stands).

Ticehurst, Three legged Cross Mill (post mill, demolished c.1887).

Wadhurst, Cousley Wood (post mill, demolished at roughly the same time as Ticehurst.)

Aldingbourne, Black Mill, (post mill, blown down 1890s).

East Blatchington, Black Mill (post mill, demolished 1900).

Brede (post mill, demolished 1906).

Felpham, Black and White mills (both gone by mid-1900s)

West Hoathly, Selsfield Common smock mill, (demolished 1909)

Any information leading to location of photos of the above would be greatly appreciated.

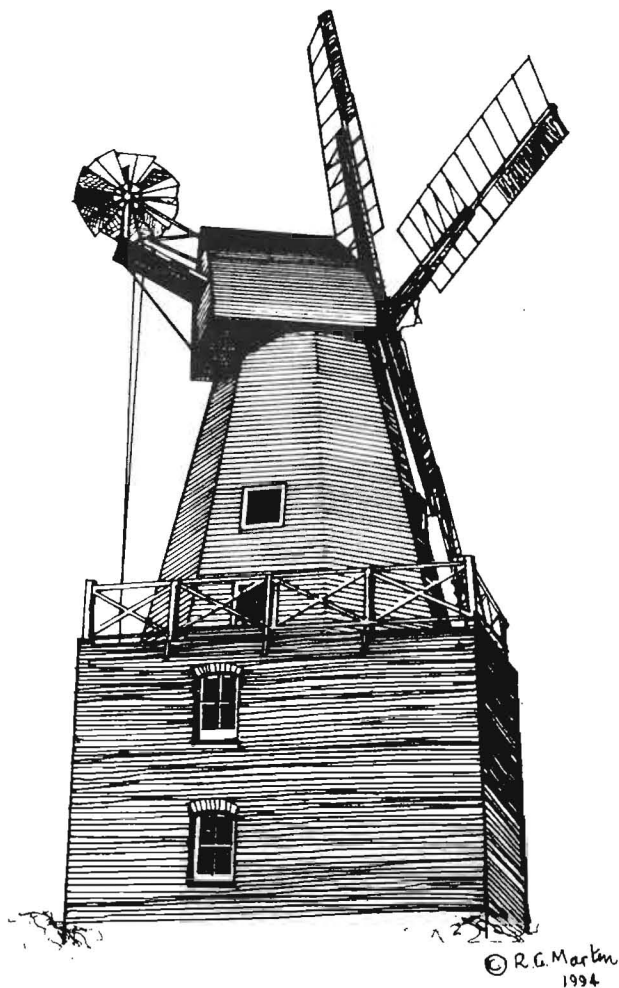
GUY BLYTHMAN

LOST MILLS OF SUSSEX

This is the first in a series of articles, which I hope will be of interest and enjoyment to members. I have decided to concentrate principally on windmills, since I have less of a "feel" for watermills and am consequently less able to write about them with enthusiasm or authority.

My main source of information has been the HES Simmons Collection in the Science Museum library, although I have tried to make use of as many others as possible. I am aware that Simmons needs to be treated with caution as it contains a number of inaccuracies, but have done my best to spot these and eliminate them. If any should have been missed and consequently reproduced in the articles I offer my apologies.

1. DRAPER'S MILL, SILVERHILL, ST. LEONARDS. (TQ 798106)



This mill is a comparatively recent departure from the Sussex scene and Silverhill smock mill is still fondly remembered by people in the area today. It was built in 1866 by Upfields on the site

of a mill destroyed by fire the previous year, which for reasons of space I will not attempt to deal with here. The mill had been extensively improved shortly before its destruction, so the new one was more or less an exact replica of it.¹ This large white mill stood on a two-floor brick base which sometime after 1890 was enclosed within a square structure, the roof of which served as a stage.² In this respect it resembled a number of mills in Kent. Other Kentish features were the shape of the cap, the construction of the fanstage and the lattice-framed dormer windows in the smock. There were four patent sails, the frames of which began further out from the canister than was usually the case, making for a less aesthetically pleasing appearance. In all other respects though the mill looked very handsome.

As might be expected in a mill which remained in use well into the twentieth century, the machinery and fittings represented the ultimate in windmill technology. The windshaft, brakewheel, wallower, upright shaft, great spur wheel, stone nuts and from 1931 one of the cant posts were of iron.³ Among various refinements was the provision of screw grease cap lubricators to the rollers on which the cap turned.⁴ The size and power of the mill were emphasised by the four pairs of stones, which were overdriven.⁵ The drive to the sack hoist was taken from a gear ring mounted above the spur wheel in a shallow dummy floor. A massive timber frame supported the upright shaft.⁶ At one time there would have been smutting and dressing machinery but this had been removed by the 1930s when Simmons and others examined the interior of the mill, flour production having ceased. Auxiliary power was provided first by a steam engine, then a suction gas plant, and finally an electric motor installed in the base.⁷ For the whole of its working life the mill was owned and operated by the Draper family, first William (until c.1899) and then John.⁸ From remarks made in the 1960s by a former employee it may not have been really economical in its latter days.⁹

After ceasing work in 1941 due to problems with the curb the mill seems to have deteriorated rapidly.¹⁰ As with many late surviving English windmills whose future was threatened, preservation was discussed, but nothing happened and its condition worsened until it became dangerous. The failure to preserve the mill seems deplorable when one considers that it was owned by a member of the Council (and sometime Mayor), but desire to save it appears to have been sincere. The real problem was of finding enough money in the difficult post-war conditions. By the time it might have been available the mill had deteriorated too far. Its fate was probably sealed by a gale in 1961 which blew away part of the cap roof. The estimated cost of repairs was now £5,000, a much larger sum than it is today. Demolition was decided upon, which prompted a vigorous correspondence in the local newspaper. Most of this was in the mill's defence. About the only dissenting voice was a gentleman who saw little value in spending money on obsolete buildings which were "only preserved to be looked at". He commented, "How many of the rising generation of today are interested in the windmill? You can't rock 'n' roll on the sweeps so the verdict is let it go."¹¹

For some reason the work was not carried out, and there followed a curious period in which the mill lingered on, evidently forgotten about, the controversy about its future having spent itself. In 1966 the property was purchased by a furniture removal company. The new owners applied for permission to dismantle the mill on account of its perilous state. This time there was no outcry, and after nearly a century of existence Draper's Mill passed into history.¹²

So disappeared the last windmill to stand in the Hastings area and one of the finest mills ever built in the county. The only windmill lost to Sussex since has been Winchelsea, destroyed in the 'hurricane' of 1987, unless one counts those like East Wittering and Nyetimber which were gutted of their machinery after having already lost their sails and caps, and thus ceased to be "mills" in any meaningful sense. An industrial estate now covers the site.

NOTES

1. *Hastings & St. Leonards News*, [hereafter *HASLO*], 24 Feb 1865.
2. Photograph of mill reproduced in *HASLO* 25 Feb 1961.
3. HES Simmons Collection.
4. JSP Buckland, writing in *HASLO* 15 July 1961.