

THE CROSSNESS ENGINES TRUST

OPEN DAYS FOR 1995					
	TUESDAYS	SUNDAYS	TUESDAYS	SUNDAYS	
Jan.		29th	July	11th	30th
Feb.	7th	26th	Aug.	8th	27th
Mar.	7th	26th	Sept.	5th	24th
Apr.	4th	23rd	Oct.	3rd	22nd
May	3rd	21st	Nov.	28th	5th
Jun	27th	4th	Dec	12th	-

For further information telephone (0181) 3036723 or 0132 2522937

OFFICERS

- President Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey, Home Farm, Herons Ghyll, Uckfield
 Chairman J.S.F. Blackwell, 21 Hythe Road, Brighton BN1 6JR (0273) 557674
 Vice Chairman D.H. Cox, 3 Middle Road, Partridge Green, Horsham RH13 8JA
 (0403) 711137
 General Sec: R.G. Martin, 42 Falmer Ave, Saltdean, Brighton, BN2 8FG (0273) 303805
 Treasurer & J.M.H. Bevan, 12 Charmandean Rd, Worthing BN14 9LB (0903) 235421
 Membership Sec:
 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 R.E. Allen, 7A, Heathfield Road, Seaford, BN25 1TH (0323) 896724
 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) 523481

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- R.E. Allen, 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 THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER IS 6th MARCH 1995

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**SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL
 ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY**

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JANUARY 95

CHIEF CONTENTS

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 Sussex Mills Group News

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES – FIRST HALF 1995

- Friday March 3 at 8.00 p.m. Annual Meeting of the Sussex Mills Group 8.00 p.m.
 The Bridge Cottage, Uckfield TQ472209.
 Contact D.H. Cox 01403 711137
- Sunday March 19 Working Day at Coultershaw Pump
 Contact R.M. Palmer 01903 505626
- Tuesday March 14 Joint Meeting with Chichester Museum Society. From
 Eurotunnel to Singleton – the story of the removal and
 re-erection of Longpost house.
 Contact Chris Bryan 01243 773158
- Saturday April 8 South East Region Industrial Archaeology Conference 10.30 a.m. .
 De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill. We are the hosts this year.
 Contact Bob Allen 01323 896724
- Sunday May 14 National Mills Day
 Please support you local mill by an offer of help on that day.
- Thursday June 1 Visit to Harvey's Brewery, Lewes. Numbers will be restricted to 30.
 Contact Peter Holtham (01273 413790) at least one week
 beforehand to ensure a place. Car Parking nearby. Meet in the
 yard (turning off Cliffe High Street). There will be a collection
 so that a donation may be made to a charity nominated by the
 brewer.
- Friday June 30 Members' evening at the Marlipins, Shoreham, 7.30 p.m.
 Contact Bob Allen (01323 896724)

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Saturday 26 November at Haywards Heath Town Hall.

The Hon. General Secretary outlined the activities of the Society over the last year in his annual report and in summary considered that the objectives of the Society had been achieved. Recording of industrial sites had been proceeding but at a slower pace than formerly. He urged vigilance on the part of every member where sites were at risk from demolition. These should be reported and a survey made before it was too late. Visits had been generally well attended.

The Hon. Treasurer's report follows this item.

The Editor reported that *SIH* 24 had been published in July and that he had several articles for *SIH* 25. He would like to have more material both for *SIH* and the *Newsletter* readily to hand.

Brian Pike, the Mills Group Chairman, reported that several mills had changed ownership during the year, and that other mills are in the process of implementing various schemes. The future of Barnham and Burton is unclear, but at Nutley and Argos Hill considerable work has been carried out with the assistance of the Mills Group. Several successful meetings and visits were arranged.

R.E. Allen reported on the proposed visits for next year, and on the arrangements for the South East Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference (SERIAC) for which a copy of the application form is enclosed with this *Newsletter*.

The principal officers and committee were re-elected unanimously.

After tea, kindly prepared for us by some of our ladies, Dr. Brian Austen gave a most interesting and knowledgeable talk on Tunbridge Ware.

GORDON THOMERSON

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am glad to report that your Society continues to prosper. Last year we had the record number of 37 new members, including two Life Members, and our subscription income increased by nearly 3%. Against this we have 9 unpaid subscriptions as at April, 1994.

Our overall excess of income over expenditure was £59 after setting aside the £863 that we are holding against next year's meeting of SERIAC. This is a much smaller figure than in previous years. However, during last year we paid for two issues of *Sussex Industrial History*, numbers 23 and 24, and we will need to fund only one issue in the coming year.

The publication *Brickmaking in Sussex* has been a most successful venture. All expenses have now been covered and Molly Beswick has most generously indicated that she wishes future profits to go to the Society. Since 30 September we have received £396 from the publishers for copies sold during the previous six months. Demand is now falling off but we hope for a steady income from this source.

At Coultershaw we received a record amount of £728 for admissions and sales during the year and we also received a grant of £500 from West Sussex County Council for roof repairs. These cost £842, paid since 30 September.

Our administration costs have gone up from £1,616 to £2,258. The latter figure includes the cost of reprinting our publicity leaflet and this was covered by a grant from West Sussex County Council of £800. Allowing for this our administration costs were in fact down on the previous year by £158 or 9.8%, which reflects much credit on your officers in their efforts to minimise their expenditure.

In the light of these figures your Committee has decided to leave subscription rates unchanged for one more year.

Once again I must record my warm thanks to Mr. Pat Tye for auditing our books; the Committee is most grateful to him.

MICHAEL BEVAN

A.I.A. CONFERENCE, 7-13 SEPTEMBER 1994

Several members of the Society attended the A.I.A. Conference in September which was held in Sparsholt Agricultural College, just outside Winchester. The conference was organised by two of our members, Mary and Tony Yoward, wearing their hats as members of the Southampton University I.A. Group.

Despite the horrendous traffic conditions in Winchester, the just opened Twyford Downs M3 road works and the inclement weather, we managed on Saturday 10 September the visits to several memorable sites, notably Portsmouth Dockyard (albeit briefly), the most impressive Hampshire Museums Service reserve collection and the Twyford Waterworks. The Conference Dinner took place on the gun deck of H.M.S. Warrior in Portsmouth, a most exciting occasion, but oh dear - weren't those benches hard! The Rolt Memorial Lecture was given on Sunday by Dr. Edwin Course on the subject of "Engineering Works in the Country".

For those attending the supplementary programme there were visits on Thursday to Fort Miley, one of the "Palmerston follies" on Portsdown Hill, Bursledon Windmill and the Isle of Portland. On the Friday there were visits to Whitchurch Silk Mill, the Science Museum Store at Wroughton and the Royal Commission's new headquarters at Swindon. More maritime connections were made with a trip on S.S. "Shieldhall", the last triple expansion steam driven ship in the south, formerly employed carrying sewage sludge on the Clyde, and Southampton Water.

On the Monday we had a trip on the Watercress Line and a visit to the ultra-modern Bass Brewery at Alton, followed by a visit to Selborne Brickworks where the bricks used for the new Glyndebourne Opera House were made.

The highlight of the conference as far as I was concerned was the last event, a visit on Tuesday to Spit Bank Fort. This was another 1860 fortification, one of four forts built in the Solent and a most extraordinary construction, well restored, and with an amazingly evocative atmosphere.

It would be nice to see more Sussex members at these conferences. This year's conference is being held in Sheffield from 8 - 10 September, 1995, with an additional programme on September 11 - 14 (to be confirmed). I will be getting details early next year and if any member is interested please get in touch with me.

RON MARTIN

MEMBERS EVENING, OCTOBER 1994

This year members met for an autumn social at Brighton and Hove VI Form College where the subject for the evening was "Industrial Archaeology before 1700".

A wet and windy night did not prevent a good number of members gathering for this challenging - and controversial - topic. Ron Martin started the evening with a comprehensive look at building materials, utilising excellent slides, with actual examples to hand on a nearby (and sturdy) table. Bricks, flint, tiles, slabs and cobbles passed before our eyes - and later beneath our fingers! Drawing on his lifelong acquaintance with the subject and fresh from his success as a 'My Brighton' tour specialist, Ron gave us a veritable tour-de-force.

Replete with hot coffee and Marks and Spencer assorted cakes, members crowded round another table where Pat Bracher showed us pottery examples from the fourteenth century Ringmer pottery site recently uncovered on the Lower Greensand in that parish. Comprehensive notes, geological and location maps all added up to Pat giving us a different and revealing look at one of our earliest industries.

Dragging members away from Ron's tiles and Pat's pots proved difficult, but with committee help (and a whip) the Publicity Officer managed to seat the throng so that he could give a whistle-stop trip across the county from High Weald to coastal mud-flats, locating iron and timber, glass and salt, ropes and shipbuilding in their geographical settings.

Time - and caretakers - wait for no one and well over our allotted time, members spilled out into the wet Hove night secure in the knowledge that the history of industry in our county can be studied as enthusiastically before the 1700 watershed as after. With the compliments and summing up speech of Freddie Sowrey to send us on our way members will be honed up their socialising skills for Marlipins 1995!

GEOFFREY MEAD

NEWS FROM COULTERSHAW BEAM PUMP

For a large part of last winter the pump was under water and access was limited, to say the least. Fortunately there was little maintenance required in that area, but there was no cause for complacency as urgent repairs were needed to the window and most of the studding on the west side of the building due to rot. The usual faithful band of helpers turned up for the annual working party in March, so that all was shipshape for the first open day. 1994 proved to be a very successful year in the number and interest of visitors. There were four special visits during the season - one from the Ludshott Commons Group of the National Trust, who gave us the Blake's hydraulic ram in 1992, from Jo Lawson of English Heritage to check

on our listing, one from the Society of Folk Life Studies attending a Conference at the Weald and Downland Museum, which included representatives of Folk Museums worldwide, and finally the children from Duncton School (all 42 of them).

We are fortunate to have been given a 'Climax' well pump by Mr. Benzimra from his house on Hesworth Common near Fittleworth. When we went to remove it, inspection of the water level at 10 to 15 feet down the well suggested that it was a suction pump, but imagine our surprise on having to draw not 20 but 33 feet of pipe and pump rod! The well-head gear incorporates a fascinating linkage to produce linear motion of the pump rod and will make a valuable exhibit. We obtained a grant from the Coast and Countryside Committee of West Sussex County Council towards the cost of exterior maintenance of the pump house (weatherboarding and roofing tiles) which is much appreciated. This work was contracted out, as our limited voluntary labour resources are more usefully applied to working on the machinery and displays.

We have also received no less than £146 from Steve Pollard, landlord of 'Badgers' - the local pub - who invites his customers to put their small change into a 'goody box' in support of the Beam Pump. We are most grateful, and hope we can reciprocate by encouraging our visitors to partake of his fare. This sum will almost defray the cost of a (fairly) new mower which we have just acquired. Thank you, 'Badgers'.

As always, we badly need more volunteers, first for the winter maintenance and improvement programme - woodwork, metalwork, plumbing, graphics etc. - and secondly as stewards for the coming season (one meets a lot of interesting people!). So please support the Society's only working exhibit and at least come along for the working party on 19 March.

MICHAEL PALMER
01 903 505626

SERIAC 1995

The next SERIAC conference is being hosted by our Society and is being held on 8 April 1995 in the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill under the title "Hot Stuff". Notices and application forms for this event are enclosed with this Newsletter. The building itself is an important example of 20th century architecture and it has been agreed that tours of the buildings should be included. The organisers are having some difficulty in arranging these tours and it MAY be necessary to ask Sussex residents to forego their tour of the buildings on the day of the Conference. If this eventuality occurs we will arrange a separate visit later in the year.

COUNTY RECORD OFFICES

East Sussex Record Office is now open on the second Saturday of each month from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. to 4.45 p.m. It is advisable to reserve your seat as these openings have proved very popular. Telephone 01273-482356

West Sussex Record Office is now open 9.15 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Monday to Friday and from 9.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Saturday. All are welcome; no appointment is necessary. First time visitors should bring identification with them.

"MY BRIGHTON"

Brighton Museum is to be the site of an exciting new project – "My Brighton" – programmed to open this coming winter at the Church St. site. The project is a multi-media display based around a computer programmed with images, text and sound about the town. The team which won the contract to supply the hardware and software for the project approached me last September for some background material and for the past few months I have been actively involved with the information gathering.

Very simply, a large number of people in the town were asked whose view of Brighton they would be most interested in seeing and hearing about. A 'league table' was produced which showed some unusual answers. Among the top runners were the views of a local historian, homeless person, disabled person, schoolchild and taxi-driver. As a pilot scheme a young schoolgirl, Sergeant Stone the Punch & Judy man, and myself were asked to take a dozen photos of places in the town which formed part of 'My Brighton'.

From these eight were chosen and these were re-taken with a digital camera onto a computer disk. We each talked about what each photo meant to us in a recording studio, and the picture and sound were linked. By technical wizardry it is possible to touch the computer screen which shows miniature pictures so that the chosen image fills the screen with the voice-over.

The images are supplemented around the screen edge with key-facts – "Do You Knows" – about the subject. Such is the complexity of this wizardry that you can follow the image with more personal images or images of a similar nature or in a nearby geographical area e.g. Sgt. Stone took the Upper Gardner St. Market which could link to his next image – the Birdcage bandstand on the Prom – or to one of mine – Orange Row, a furniture making workshop.

I chose to look at features of the former industrial area of North Laine, an area chosen by other contributors for its richness of character and buildings.

To back up these images "experts" were sought who could give hard facts and opinions to the "laypersons" images. SLAS members may thus find the opinions and indeed voice-overs of a number of our committee and members on this project, especially Ron Martin's contributions on buildings.

At the time of writing (May) Industrial Archaeology items feature strongly and we expect a great deal of interest in our area when this project comes to fruition. As a non-computer person I find the whole project fascinating and extremely exciting – according to the 'boffins' behind the scheme – this only scratches the surface of the project's potential. (watch this space!)

GEOFFREY MEAD

APPEAL FOR INFORMATION

John Tompkins, a sculptor with a workshop on Brighton seafront, is working on a Memorial to the boys who died building Brighton's piers. Any information about these boys would be very much appreciated and he can be contacted at 248 Kings Road Arches, Brighton, BN1 1NB. Tel 01273 736455

SMALLPOX

The General Secretary has received the following letter from Professor R.A. Shooter:-

I am writing to you to ask for your help. As a member of the Jenner Educational Trust I am searching for things related to Smallpox – a disease unique in that it is the only infectious disease that has been eradicated by deliberate action.

The Jenner Trust is based on Jenner's house in Berkeley, Gloucestershire where he carried out his first vaccinations against smallpox. I would like to think that future visitors to the Jenner Museum will be able to learn about smallpox and how it was eradicated, and perhaps take something away that helps in the eradication of another disease.

As yet we have little about smallpox from your part of the country. I would be most grateful if you could spare the time to consult your records, and to send me any references to smallpox that you find. Are there records of outbreaks of smallpox or of vaccinations? Do buildings still exist that once were used for isolation?

R.A. Shooter

Any information and enquiries to Ron Martin, please.

NEWS FROM AMBERLEY MUSEUM

The 1994 season has not been one of the Museum's best in terms of visitor numbers but it was successful nevertheless and we can look forward to 1995 with confidence.

During the Autumn we have been continuing to work on the new Paviers' Museum of Roads and Roadmaking. This new project will outline the history of roads and their construction and feature a number of the Museum's large road making machines. One of these is the Barber-Greene road finisher which improved highway engineering in the 1950s by enabling, for the first time, a continuous smooth compacted surface to be laid. This machine will be joined by a newly acquired Leyland Bison concrete truck mixer which spent its time working the South of England for Ready Mixed Concrete (South Coast) Ltd. It has been provided by the RMC Group, whose workshops at Washington, West Sussex, fully restored and overhauled it before presenting it to us. Although truck mixers like this have played an important part in the construction industry, we believe that it is the only vehicle of its type in a museum in the UK.

Further developments are also taking place in connection with the Milne Electrical Collection. Last year the Seeboard Electricity Hall opened with its initial exhibition of the Collection. Part of the collection still remained in Tonbridge in the Museum's original home awaiting resources to move it to Amberley. Following negotiation with Seeboard plc, we are now in a position to bring the remainder of the exhibits required to Amberley where they will be in more secure accommodation and more accessible. These items will not be on public display but will form a valuable reserve collection to complement our existing library and archive. Work has already begun on the transfer and all the exhibits should be stored at Amberley at the start of the next season.

Elsewhere on site conservation and restoration continues apace. We are working to restore an AA and an RAC box which will continue our 'roads' theme for 1995 with these typical roadside items.

The year 1995 also sees the Centenary of the Dennis Company of Guildford. We are restoring a 1927 Dennis 30cwt single deck bus with unusual aluminium bodywork to take part in a celebratory rally at the Museum on Sunday 17 September. This one of a number of special events taking place in 1995 at Amberley. The provisional programme for the early part of the year is:-

- Sunday 9 April COBWEB RUN, this year reverting to being a combined event for both cars and motor cycles.
- Sunday 30 April VETERAN CYCLE DAY. Our increasingly popular gathering of early bicycles and tricycles, from the days of the boneshaker of the 1870s onwards.
- Sun/Mon 7/8 May "ENDURANCE" & "ALBERT'S" STEAM CENTENARY. Special one-off gathering of steam traction engines and other items made by Fowlers of Leeds, to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Fowler traction engines owned by Bob Langley and the British Engineerium.
- Sunday 21 May 15TH STATIONARY ENGINE WORKING DAY, once again organised by Ian Sampson and this year featuring Petter engines. Sponsored by Stationary Engine Magazine.

The Museum re-opens for the 1995 season, our seventeenth season, on Wednesday 22 March and I hope that you will be able to visit us during the year.

ROBERT TAYLOR

BOOK REVIEWS

Pat Burgess & Andy Saunders, *Blitz over Sussex 1941-42*, Middleton Press 1994 pp94 illus ISBN 1 873793 35 9 £9.95.

Many industrial archaeologists are interested in structures built in periods of war to defend the country and promote the war effort, This book identifies the air bases within the counties of East and West Sussex and the units operating from them. In addition it works through the local authority areas within the county indicating what damage German raids created and on what days those raids took place. Naturally the Germans paid particular attention to targets concerned with communications and public supplies. It is therefore no surprise to read about damage to railway stations, the carriage works at Lancing and attacks on gas holders and gas works. All of these are subjects of interest to the industrial archaeologist. Less relevant to our area of study are the extensive details and maps of aircraft crashes, both German and Allied. The thing that may surprise the reader who is unfamiliar with this subject is that Allied losses, mainly through accidents and aircraft faults, greatly outnumbered the German losses due to R.A.F. Fighters and surface fire by anti-aircraft guns.

The book contains an excellent assortment of photographs which range from aircraft and crews to bomb damage, the home guard and civil defence and fire-fighters. In total there are

120 illustrations supported by a extensive text which is well-written and interesting. The book is a sequel to an earlier volume *Battle over Sussex 1940* and is to be followed by another volume covering 1943-45. Good value at the published price. Copies can be obtained from booksellers or direct from the publishers at Easebourne Lane, Midhurst GU29 9AZ post free.

BRIAN AUSTEN

R.W.Gallins & B.C.Vorssam, *Geology of the country around Horsham*, British Geological Survey HMSO 1993

At £26 this is a volume for the specialist or an extremely enthusiastic local studies person! Geological memoirs exist for each British Geological Survey sheet but they are infrequently updated. The publication of this memoir a few years after those for Lewes and Brighton brings the latest in geological studies and techniques to our county.

There are references to items of I.A. interest throughout the volume. e.g. 35 pages have references to brickworks but chapter 7 on economic geology has most to offer on the topic of I.A. Brick clays, building stone, iron ore and water supply are all sub-headings of this chapter. On stone itself the memoir illustrates the wide variety and type characteristics of the Wealden range from the calcareous Horsham Stone used for roofs to the crushed Wealden limestones - winkle stone - noted in farm roadways. Of note to this reviewer was the use of highly rippled sandstones for farm 'non-slip' surfaces in stables.

Throughout the memoir, which is sectioned into stratigraphical units e.g. Hastings Beds, Weald Clay, Quaternary deposits, there are many references to pits, quarries, workings and cuttings which expose the various strata allowing close examination.

The memoir is attractively illustrated with colour and monochrome photographs of landscape views and rock detail. The maps are large and clear as are charts and diagrams, and the print and paper quality excellent.

Only a geology freak would describe this book as a 'rattling good yarn' but for a clearer understanding of the raw materials, power supplies and location of some of our important historical industries this memoir is invaluable.

GEOFFREY MEAD



SUSSEX MILLS
GROUP



EVENTS FOR 1995

- Friday 3 March Annual General Meeting of the Sussex Mills Group
8.00 p.m. at Bridge Cottage, Uckfield. TQ 472209
Reports and election of committee for the coming year. This will be followed by members slides. Please bring along say 5-10 slides of subjects relevant to mills from your collection. We shall also have a leaflet swop amongst those representing the various mills open to the public. Thus we can advertise each other and help to pass on visitors to other mills.

Contact D.H. Cox. 01493 711137
- Wednesday 8 March Stone Cross Windmill – The Annual General Meeting of the Stone Cross Windmill Trust will be held at Westham Village Hall, Peelings Lane, Westham, just off the High Street, starting at 7.30 p.m. This will include an illustrated talk on the history of Stone Cross Windmill.
Further details from D.H. Cox. 01430 711137
- Saturday 18 March SPAB Watermills Meeting in London.
- Sunday 19 March Working Day at Coultershaw starting at 10.30 a.m. Contact M. Palmer for details. 01903 505626. This is the only place for which SIAS and Sussex Mills Group are entirely responsible. Your support is needed.
- Sunday 14 May National Mills Day. Please support your local mill by offering to help on that day. Some mills get very busy and so need all the help they can get and deserve.
- Saturday 12 August Mystery Tour of Mills starting at Burton Water Mill, Petworth at 10.30 a.m. SU 979180. Contact P. Pearce 01903 241169
- Sunday 1 October Open Meeting to discuss problems of opening mills to the public. All members as well as mill operators are invited. This has been a useful meeting over the last two years with good support. I am looking for one of the mills open to the public to host this event – any offers please?
2.30 p.m. at venue to be announced. Check latest Newsletter.
Contact D.H. Cox 01403 711137
- Saturday 18 November SPAB Watermill Meeting in London.

NOTES FROM THE HON. SECRETARY

MILL NOTES

Burton Mill.

The new owners are busy working on the mill including conversion of part to living accommodation. The roof has been repaired making the building waterproof. They hope to have the working mill open to the public some time next year. Mills Group members are

giving advice and we hope to be able to start the next mills tour in August 1995 from Burton Mill. I am discussing a working party there in the near future. Please contact me if you are interested.

Sheffield Mill Farm

This mill has recently been purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Dyball who are keen to see the mill restored. After contact with Brian Pike, we have visited them to advise and expect to have a working party there to clean up the mill. This will probably be in March/April. If you are interested please contact me.

Stone Cross Windmill

With the Trust now firmly established and accepting responsibility for the mill, we are now negotiating with Mr. S. Hall for the handing over of the mill and some land around. There is no dispute over handing over the mill but a lease for the land around the mill involved negotiation. A lease has been drawn up and discussions are in hand (as at late November 1994).

GENERAL NOTES

Vertical Axis Mills

I have had passed to me some notes of calculations regarding vertical axis mills. These are highly technical but you are welcome to a copy on receipt of an S.A.E.

Watermill at Hythe, Kent

I have received a copy of an excellent A3 folded to A4 sheet showing the history of the mill and with several sketches (one in section) of the mill. A very good production. Copies priced at £1.50 towards restoration of the mill are available from the owner Mr. Marston, The Mill House, Mill Lane, Hythe, Kent CT21 5LP.

For Sale. Mill House, Alfriston

Although this tower mill now has no machinery, cap or sweeps and is a conversion into a luxury dwelling, it is interesting to note that it is up for sale at an asking price of £225,000. There are several rooms in the accommodation, a 17 ft 6 in dia. sitting room, a 14 ft dia. bedroom and a 11 ft dia. bedroom. Enquiries to Strutt & Parker in Lewes.

Tower Windmills

I have been contacted by a Mr. Boucher who is doing a technical study on dampness in tower mills. I have agreed to assist by collecting information on Sussex mills. If anyone has any experience of dampness or lack of it I would be obliged to hear from them.

Steam Mills

I am trying to compile a list of steam-driven mills – the purpose built type not watermills converted for steam use – and would be obliged for any information concerning them. At this stage all that is required is a list of sites with map reference and their present condition. Has anyone done this already or done any research on any one of these? Please contact me if you can help.

Rock Mill, Washington

I recently [late October 1994] called in at the landfill site adjacent to Rock Mill. The owners of the landfill site are also owners of the mill. I met the manager of the site and was shown over the mill. Until a few years ago the mill with side additions was used as a dwelling offering bed and breakfast.

At the time of my visit they were going out to tender for work on the mill. They had had a survey done of the building and this indicated that work was necessary to keep the building in good order.

Waste Management Ltd. purchased the mill several years ago when the previous owners and occupiers put the mill up for sale. The company purchased the building as it will eventually be surrounded on all sides by landfill sites. At present the landfill is on one side only but this does create some smell and the view over the rubbish site from the mill is not ideal. So the company decided that it would be best [less aggravation?] if they owned the mill. I was assured that there is no intention of destroying/removing the mill to obtain the sand underneath.

The mill is unoccupied at present and one room is used for storage of old paperwork etc. The rest of the building is empty. I believe the central heating is maintained on.

There is no machinery in the mill with all floors converted to living accommodation. There is no cap to the mill but the top has been roofed. It was converted into a dwelling in about 1920.

To me the building looked to be in good condition and would make a nice place to live in except for the smell and hazard of the landfill site !!!

Patcham Windmill

An aerial photograph of the above appeared in *The Evening Argus* on Tuesday 15 November 1994, ref 13578 for those interested.

The Simmons Collection

I have recently been in contact with the Science Museum Library in London regarding the above and I thought the following would be of interest for people who are not familiar with the collection.

Mr. H.E.S. Simmons was born in Washington, Sussex in 1901 and died at Shoreham by Sea in 1973. He had a lifelong interest in windmills and watermills. During more than 40 years of private research, he visited many mill sites and consulted a wide range of documentary sources, including fire insurance records, local newspapers, directories and maps. He also exchanged information with other mill enthusiasts and thus gathered further information on those mills which he was unable to visit himself.

He produced a set of manuscripts, research notes, maps and photographs, all arranged by county for he covered a large number of counties. The annotated maps total over three hundred and the photographs total over 2000.

While one should not take all that Simmons says as correct, but should check against his mostly referenced statements, his work does provide a very valuable collection for mill enthusiasts.

It is thanks to Frank Gregory, who realised the value of the collection, that when Mr. Simmons died Mrs. Simmons was persuaded to present the collection to the Science Museum. The information on Sussex Mills comprises:-

2900 pages of notes collated under the parish in which the mill is situated, broken down as follows:-

1 vol 153 pages Index, notes, list of maps and refs

8 vols 1124 pages

5 vols 846 pages

4 vols 802 pages

890 photographs of 137 windmills

271 photographs of 100 watermills

All are listed alphabetically under the parish.

The complete collection of notes is held at the Science Museum Library where they may be consulted by those holding readers tickets. Bound copies of most of the notes by county are on the open shelves in the Reading Room (ref. shelfmark 621.548:93). Some of those for Sussex are also available as bound photocopies in Brighton Reference Library (ref. S621.2 SIM and S621.45 SIM)

Photographs - The Science Museum have a set of prints but the negatives are with the National Monuments Record Centre, which has now moved to Swindon. The address is Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ (Tel. 01793 414600) for enquiries. The smallest prints (7 x 5 inches) cost £8.50 each plus VAT and packing. The prints are available for inspection but book beforehand. I have a list of mills photographed.

MILLS ADVENTURE IN FRANCE

On Thursday 29 September 1994, I crossed the Channel by the ferry from Newhaven to Dieppe, to drive to Chateaudun where I had been invited to stay overnight as the guest of the secretary of A.R.A.M. (Beauce). This is the regional mills group affiliated to F.F.A.M. (Federation Francais des Amis des Moulins) for which the Secretary, Madame Barrault, had organised a three day mill tour due to start on Friday morning.

During the next three days we were able to inspect a good selection of mills, mostly restored and in action. On arrival at our first mill at Artenay we saw a magnificent vertical sided tower mill with 'Berton' sails set, and turning. Inside the cap was an interesting hand operated winding gear. Our second call was the watermill at Flix. It had an undershot wheel, but no water to drive it owing to excessive water extraction for agricultural purposes, which had lowered the water table. We understood that there was hope that the supply of water would be restored. After lunch we visited a 'Cavier' mill at Nouan-sur-Loire, a very interesting mill which resembles a small hollow post mill mounted on a cone shaped tower, which, in its turn is mounted on a 'Cave' or base. There is no machinery in the tower, the vertical drive is taken right down into the 'Cave' and drives a pair of stones mounted on a hurst. On to another watermill at Suevres to see another undershot working watermill. We stayed overnight at a motel at Blois, where the catering as usual was first class! We set off in the morning for Maves, where we saw an open trestle postmill, mounted on stone piers, with the timbers covered for weather protection.

Up to now each windmill had been equipped with Berton sails, but our next call was at Talcy where we found a little post mill with four sails covered by eight canvasses, each sail having separate cloths on leading and trailing edges. Here we had a diversion; we visited the chateau at Talcy where we were offered an aperitif, and as a change from mills, we were shown an ancient wine press and a 'Pigeonnier' or Pigeon House. After lunch, we saw another beautifully restored tower mill, again eight canvas sails, this one winded by a tailpole (covered by shingles). This mill also has a hand luffing gear in the cap. The final call on Saturday was to the watermill at Courgain, again undershot. (The land in Beauce region is

mostly rather flat). This mill was working and very interesting. Here the miller – a great character – asked the party if anyone would like to go to Paradise? (Qui veut monter au Paradis?) – No answer – so he told one member who was standing next to the sack hoist chain to put his foot into a stirrup which was attached to the chain, and then proceeded to pull the control rope to activate the hoist, and a rather surprised member found himself rising off the ground. Having almost reached the next floor, the miller held him there for a short time, whilst he was explaining to the party, then, very gently he took him up through the trap door and left him on the next floor.

We stayed overnight in Chateaudun, and on Sunday morning the first call was a beautifully restored post mill at Bois de Fugeres. Again canvas sails and protected open trestle were in evidence. Then to Ymonville, another Berton sailed postmill with stone walled roundhouse in excellent condition. The last call before lunch was Moutiers Postmill with Berton sails and protected open trestle. At lunch we were joined by Monsieur Andre Gaucheron, one of France's authorities on mills, and he as a bonus took us on an unscheduled visit to Berche les pierres to see the Eolienne Bollee – a fitting end to a wonderful tour. Many thanks to Madame Barrault, to A.R.A.M. (Beauce) and all those who helped to make it such a success.

PETER PEARCE

IFIELD WATER MILL

At a small ceremony at Ifield Water Mill on 18 September 1994, SIAS member Ted Henbery and Ken Clement were each presented with a miniature clock to mark twenty years of voluntary service in the mill.

Ted is our director, organiser, draughtsman and planner and without him the project would never have begun all those years ago. His quiet determination carries us through all the many problems of rebuilding a water mill on a shoestring.

Ken Clement is our woodworker. He will make you anything in wood, from a double bass to an egg cup but at the mill, having built the new spur wheel, he is at present making cogs for it.

Our thanks to them both.

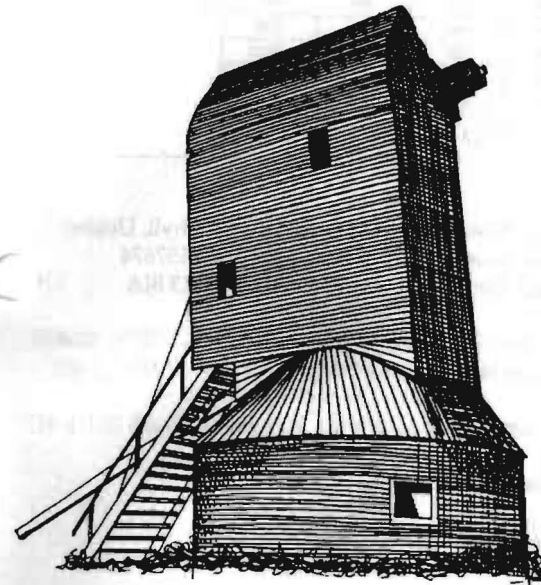
PAT BRACHER

BOOK NOTICE

Our member Guy Blythman has advised us of a forthcoming book which he has written. This is the *Windmills and Watermills of Middlesex – an historical survey*. The book is casebound and will contain about 75 illustrations. A special edition containing the names of subscribers will be issued at a pre-publication price of £15.95 including post and packing. Those wishing to support this publication by purchasing a copy should write now to the publishers who are Quotes Ltd., The Book Barn, Whittlebury, NN12 8SX. No payment should be sent at this stage. They will be invoiced on publication. After publication the price of the book for general sale will be £17.95

LOST WINDMILLS OF SUSSEX

3. ST. JOHN'S POST MILL, BURGESS HILL



ST. JOHN'S MILL BURGESS HILL

R.G. Martin

This post Mill stood off Mill Road on St John's Common, not far from Wivelsfield station. Although it has been thought of as belonging to Burgess Hill, the site was actually in Keymer parish. It was built by a P. Dove in 1769, according to an inscription carved on the post (others to be found there were "C.P. 1806", "W. Harding 29. 5. 1860" and "S. Upton 1871"; what connection these persons had with the mill is unclear).

The first documentary proof of its existence is the Defence Schedules of 1801, in which the miller is given as John Eager. The mill was capable of producing four sacks of flour daily, provided wheat was supplied for the purpose. In 1811 it was owned by William Tobutt, who put it up for sale in that year. It was sold again in 1815, 1816 and 1822; on the last occasion it was in the occupation of Mr. P. Woolven.

Millers we know of include John Gainsford (1834), J.W. Mercer (1845), and Charles Avery (1858). The mill ceased work c.1885-90, the last man to work it being a Mr. Wood.

During the First World War, when troops were billeted in the area, the roundhouse was used as a store for provisions and rations were issued daily from there. The mill was demolished in 1920 at the latest, after which the timber is said to have been reused somewhere in London. Latterly it stood with sweeps and most of the roundhouse missing.⁽¹⁾

Gurney Wilson visited the derelict mill in December 1914 and took down a few details. An iron windshaft had been installed by Medhurst in 1874, and the brake- and tailwheels were also of iron, with wooden teeth. There were two pairs of stones, each 4 ft 6 in. in diameter. Two of the sweeps were patents, with the striking wheel and weight box on the side of the mill⁽²⁾; the other two were commons and are said to have been difficult to set, especially in cold weather

NOTES

- (1) Photograph in Brighton Reference Library, captioned "Wivelsfield"
- (2) *Ibid*

GUY BLYTHMAN