

The Society is a very active organisation with some 320 Members with a wide variety of interests from recording to restoration on a wide range of different industrial sites.

We hold meetings and visits throughout the warm months. We also publish a quarterly Newsletter and an annual Sussex Industrial History which is available free to Members. The Society also incorporates the Sussex Mills Group which has been set up to foster interests of owners, Societies and others interested in mills. Members of the Society are automatically Members of the Mills Group.

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Copy for the Newsletter should be sent to:

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

LATEST DATE FOR COPY FOR THE JULY NEWSLETTER IS 7TH JUNE 1996

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APRIL 96

#### CHIEF CONTENTS

Findings from Coultershaw  
South Downs Chalk Pits in 1858  
Early Wheat Varieties  
Book Reviews  
Sussex Mills Group News

#### PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES – Middle 1996

Sunday May 12	National Mills Day Please support your local mill by an offer of help on that day.
Friday May 24	Visit to the Body Shop at Littlehampton. Numbers limited to 26. Booking Essential. Charge £3.50 and £2.50 (senior citizens) includes some Body Shop 'freebies'. Cheques payable to S.I.A.S. to Pat Bracher, 2 Hayes Close, Ringmer, LEWES, East Sussex BN8 5HN 01273 813902 <b>*Meet outside 'Trading Post' at the factory not later than 2.15 p.m.</b>
Friday June 28	Members evening at Newhaven Fort. Meet outside entrance at 7.30 p.m. Contact Bob Allen 01323 896724
Wednesday July 24	Visit to Ricardo Engineering at Shoreham. Meet at Works entrance at 6.30 p.m. For details contact Brian Austen 01444 413845
Saturday August 3	Mills Tour starting at Ifield Water Mill, Crawley at 10.30 a.m. Contact P. Pearce 01903 241169
Saturday September 21	Visit to the De La Warr Pavilion and Brede pumping engines. Meet in the foyer of the Pavilion at 11.00 a.m. Contact Ron Martin 01273 271330
Thursday October 3	Visit to King & Barnes brewery, Horsham. Numbers limited to 30. Booking essential. Cheques payable to S.I.A.S. for £4.00 per person to Peter Holtham, 12 St. Helens Crescent, Hove BN3 8EP <i>not later than 11th September.</i> <b>*Meet in the brewery yard at 7.30 p.m. prompt.</b>

Sunday October 6 Mills Group Meeting, 2.30 p.m. at Barnham Mill, Yapton Road,  
Barnham SU967039. All members welcome as well as mill  
owners. Contact Don Cox 01403 711137

#### VISIT TO THE BODY SHOP FACTORY AT LITTLEHAMPTON ON FRIDAY 28 MAY

The meeting time was left off the Visits Card. We meet at 2.15 p.m. outside the Trading Post building in the factory grounds.

The Body Shop is a very successful business with modern purpose built factory buildings which should allow us to see how automation and new technology have saved space and manpower. It is also interesting to see how a present day philanthropic employer compares with the Cadbury and Port Sunlight organisations of the past.

It is important to see the working manufactory, hence the time of the visit. Our guide will explain the search for sustainable or 'green' resources to provide the raw materials. The accent for the units are on saving energy and reducing waste. Much of the hot water on the site is heated using active solar panels. Some electricity is generated using a wind generator.

Added to these technological goodies are the free samples of some of the products we will see being made. Hurry to be one of the 26 sending their £3.50 ( or £2.50 for senior citizens) to Pat Bracher.

#### MEETINGS OF I.A. INTEREST RUN BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

From the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society:-

Saturday May 4. – **INDUSTRIAL STUDIES.** – Visit to the Reigate 'caves and sand mines, including Reigate Castle's 'Barons' Cave' (admission 75p adults, 50p senior citizens/ children) and Tunnel Road 'caves'. Meet at south end of tunnel in Tunnel Road, Reigate at 14.00.

Tuesday June 18 – **INDUSTRIAL STUDIES** – "The Dorking Greystone 'Lime Co. Ltd., Betchworth: commercial and technological enterprise" a talk by Paul W. Sowan, who rescued the Company's archive c. 1865 - 1960, and has read most of it.

Saturday July 27 – **INDUSTRIAL STUDIES** – Walk from Dover to Folkestone total length about 16 km or 10 miles) to see Industrial, defence and transport sites, including optional visit (bring English Heritage membership card if you have it) to Dover Castle and its underground works. Meet outside Dover Priory Station 10.30 (return trains from Folkestone, Including trains back to Dover for motorists!)

For times and places of talks & further details contact Paul Sowan  
Telephone (work) 0181-656-9755, FAX (work) 0181-654-8507

#### JOTTINGS FROM COULTERSHAW

First and foremost we were saddened by the loss of Leslie Martin in February; he died suddenly and peacefully while on a visit to one of his sons in Cambridge. We shall miss him for his fellowship and for his sterling work as steward – his enthusiasm rubbed off on many hundreds of visitors, young and old, and one pictures him setting off with his little party down the path to the stables. He also spent a great deal of time and effort in distributing our publicity leaflets.

He leaves a big gap in our resources, and if anyone feels able to help during open days – or indeed at other times – please get in touch with Michael Palmer. We do not expect helpers to stay all day – even a couple of hours would be welcome. Nor is it only a matter of guiding visitors – there are always other jobs to be done – preparing the system for opening, odd maintenance work, improving the displays, "gardening" and occasional emergency repairs. So roll up, please, and help us to make this a successful season.

There was only one major flood during the winter, with water over the main road (A285) just before Christmas. Essential maintenance has been done, but there are many more things we would like to do, if only we had more hands ...

Please can anyone find us a nice big convex mirror (say 18 or 24 inch diameter)? We want to give potential visitors a sight of the waterwheel from the entrance to the building. There must be lots of these mirrors in shops being replaced by security TV cameras.

MICHAEL PALMER  
01903 505626

#### LES MARTIN – Editor's note

Michael Palmer has paid tribute to Les and his work for Coultershaw. I first met him when I was on a visit to a local history group in West Sussex, another of his passionate interests. He was an enthusiast for Industrial Archaeology and I was glad to note that among the large gathering at his funeral there were over a dozen SIAS members.

R.E.A.

#### SOUTH DOWNS CHALK PITS IN 1858

John Norwood (*Newsletter* 89) may have to turn to estate papers archives for such information as may have been recorded concerning many of the South Downs chalk pits. But some published information does exist, as a result of the activities of the Government's Mining Records Office and its successors, which was administered under various Government departments from time to time, making its publications troublesome to track down.

The earlier (1840s) mining legislation was concerned solely with the regulation of mines for coal, fireclay, and iron stone. The Metalliferous Mines Regulation Acts (1872-75) extended control to underground workings for all mineral substances, not just metalliferous ores as their titles suggest. But openworks were not subject to Legislation until the Quarries Act (1894), and then only if the open pit was 20 feet or more deep

The Mineral Statistics (Part II for 1858)

These facts notwithstanding, Robert Hunt, as keeper of mining records at the Mining Records Office, undertook the collection of information concerning clay pits and manufacturers, chalk pits, stone quarries, and various miscellaneous workings for fullers earth, sand, and several other mineral substances during 1858, and published the information in 1860. As the MRO was at the time something of a 'two men and a dog' operation, and Hunt had no statutory authority to request information on mineral works other than underground mines for coal, fireclay, or ironstone, they are less than a model of accuracy, and certainly contain both geological and geographical errors. The whole of the British Isles is covered, including Ireland and the smaller islands. Mineral workings are seldom specified as openworks or underground mines or quarries. although not a few are known to have been subterranean.

Fourteen chalk pits are listed under Sussex. The information is set out in tables, the columns being headed as follows:

- 1 Number
- 2 Name of quarry
- 3 Nearest railway station or shipping port
- 4 Name or freeholder (in italics), and of quarryman
- 5 Local name of stone
- 6 Geological formation
- 7 Buildings in which used, or purposes to which applied, and remarks
- 8 Price of stone at quarry
- 9 Average annual produce

No information is provided for the Sussex chalk pits under headings 4, 8 or 9; and only occasionally under 7. All the information published is as follows:-

No.	Name of Quarry	Nrst. Station/ Port	Name of Stone	Geological Formation	Buildings/Purposes/ Remarks
1.	Alfriston quarry	Cuckmere river	Chalk	Upper Chalk	The chalk, if soft, is used for agriculture; if hard, is burnt for lime. No returns of prices have been made
6.	Cherry Hinton		Chalk,	Grey Chalk Marl	
9.	Clayton	Hurstpierpoint	Chalk marl	Chalk marl	Agriculture
14.	Hamsey	Lewes	Marl	Chalk Marl	Agriculture
16.	Holywell	Eastbourne	Chalk,	Upper or } Flinty Chalk}	The chalk is chiefly burnt for lime
19.	Lewes	Lewes	Chalk,	Chalk	Various proprietors

There are several chalk pits around Lewes used for local purposes only

20.	Malling Hill,	Lewes	Chalk,	Chalk	
24.	Offham Pit,	Lewes	Marl,	Grey Chalk Marl	
25.	Offham,	Lewes	Chalk,	Chalk	
32.	Southerham,	Lewes	Chalk,	Chalk	
35.	Steyning,	Shoreham	Chalk,	Chalk	The Priory of St. Pancras, near Lewes
36.	Stoneham,	Lewes	Marl,	Grey Chalk Marl	Agricultural purposes
39.	Swanborough,	Lewes	Chalk,	Chalk	Burnt for lime

This disappointingly sparse information does at least establish the pits to have been active and of a noteworthy size by 1858, and provides names for them. Hunt collected his information by circulating forms to proprietors, although I am not aware that the completed forms, or even a specimen form, survive. It seems likely that the details were connected over several years, leading up to 1858, rather than all in the one year. One may wonder if the Cherry Hinton entry is a stray from Cambridgeshire! The most surprising piece of information, if it is accepted as such, is that chalk from Steyning was used at St. Pancras Priory, near Lewes: presumably this is local folklore, or derived from some printed source.

No similar lists were published in the Mining Records series for earlier or later years. The full bibliographical details for the volume are as follows:

Robert Hunt, Mining Records. Mineral Statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, being Part II for 1858. Memoir of the Geological Survey, published 1860 by Longman, Green, Longman, & Roberts. Sussex clay pits are listed in pages 39 - 40 (24 pits), and 'quarries' in pages 170 - 172 (45 sites.)

PAUL W. SOWAN

**SUSSEX EXPRESS 6th January 1911**

"Sale of 300 horses. Instructed by the directors of the London General Omnibus Co Ltd at Harrow Road, Paddington, 300 omnibus horses direct out of constant work, which are being sold on account of the Company replacing them with motors"

Although not directly referring to Sussex this has a deal to interest members, not just the transport buffs. The 'patron saint' of my subject (historical geography) was Prof. W.G. Hoskins, one of whose sayings was that everything in the landscape was older than it first appeared.

I have always believed and taught!) that the huge surge in suburban expansion came about in part as a response to the flood of war surplus vehicles coming on the market post 1918, thus enabling bus companies to provide longer faster routes, freeing low value farmland far from the city centre for house building. Greater London was different in that farmland in the immediate Home Counties district was often under high-value hayfields used to feed urban transport horses.

This advert backs up Hoskins, with horses being redundant long before the First World War. Horse breeding was an important business in the south-east and the prospect of this trade collapsing must have caused a ripple which ran right through the business, which was only 'saved' by the military needs of the coming conflict.

GEOFFREY MEAD

**WHO'S THIS ?**

"A 42 year old nuclear physicist who became the curator of a transport museum in London's Docklands. Whilst most of us enthuse about cars, coaches, buses or bikes, this man finds anything to do with what is under the wheel the centre of his attraction. With an almost

evangelical zeal he is now setting about the task of developing a national centre for the study of the history of road building. Nothing escapes him from antique stop and go boards, paraffin hazard lamps, to huge road laying machines. Telford and McAdam are his idols and examples of their work are laid out alongside more modern examples of road surfacing."

The final clue ? The Roadmakers exhibition is at Amberley Museum (01798-831370) where he is the Curator.

Diana Durden found this information in a lavishly illustrated article about Robert Taylor's life and interests in the November 24 issue of Auto Express.

## BOOK REVIEWS

*The book of trades or Library of useful arts*, 1811, edited by Beryl Hurley (1994), 3 Vols. £3.00 each A5

The foyer of East Sussex Record Office in the Maltings, Lewes, has a very good selection of books and booklets centred on the theme of local history. I recently purchased the three volume set titled above, all of which deal in subjects dear to SIAS hearts.

The 'obvious' trades are here – *smiths* " ... one who works on iron and who from that metal manufacturers a vast variety of articles useful in the arts of life" and *carriers* "The business of the carrier is to prepare hides which have been under the hands of the tanner, for the use of shoemakers, coachmakers, saddlers, bookbinders etc.". There are also the less well recorded *feather workers, gold beaters, looking glass makers, brush makers*.

There are about two pages per trade with a number of illustrations from Rustic Vignettes more usually known as W.H. Pyne prints. 82 trades breaking each occupation down into a number of sub-sections and answering many of those obscure trade queries which we are always meaning to look up somewhere! This is the somewhere.

GEOFFREY MEAD

*Brighton Revealed – Through Artist Eyes* c.1760 - c.1960 Royal Pavilion Art Gallery & Museums ed. David Beevers £13.95

Brighton Revealed was an outstanding art exhibition which ran from October 94 to January 95. Anyone unfortunate enough to have missed it can capture something of the experience in the sumptuous catalogue still available from the Museum shops.

There is much to interest SIAS members from the cover onwards, and not only the more obvious I.A. illustrations. Whatever your views on the scope of I.A. the economy of the town is presented through the skill of Turner, Constable, Sickert, Bowden, Nash and Nibbs. Old favourites march along with little known views giving a range of views of certain subjects. The Chain Pier was an immense source of inspiration, as were the fishing boats and their crews, the Preston viaduct, beach capstans, Thirties cinema, Volks Railway, seafront hotels, windmills.

Away from the acceptable face of Brighton there are some surprises, the densely packed industrial house terraces portrayed by John Piper in 1939, a century earlier, Aaron Penley had executed what must be the only art work ever of "Gloster [sic] Passage" deep in the industrial zone of the North Laine. Shipping attracted many, none more so than John Constable who has this subject as the focus of many of his works with detailed studies of beach vessels, coiled ropes, drying nets and sails.

Many of the illustrations are in colour and all are accompanied by well informed background text.

GEOFFREY MEAD

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## EARLY WHEAT VARIETIES

With reference to the report of the sale of Nutbourne Mill in 1791 (*Newsletter* 88 p.8), I thought that readers might be interested in the references to commercial strains of wheat to be found in 'Our Farm Crops', by J. Wilson FRSE, published by Blackie & Sons of London. The date is unknown but is probably early Victorian. It will be seen that Chidham Wheat was then well esteemed throughout the country, with many other varieties being developed from it. Nutbourne would probably have been the nearest water mill to the Chidham peninsula, from where the crop originated. Numerous other mills once existed in this area, including those at Broadbridge and Bosham.

Incidentally, Chidham is also believed to be the original home of St. Cuthman (b.681), who founded several Sussex churches during his journeys eastwards.

"It would not be within the limits of this short treatise to give a description of each, or half of the various wheats cultivated in the United Kingdom; it must therefore be confined to those most generally esteemed varieties met with in our best cultivated districts....."

Chidham - Fine quality; short, compact grain, with fine transparent skin; meals well, and fetches a good price at market; largely grown in the southern counties; increasing in Scotland.

Essex - Resembles Chidham; probably the same wheat altered by cultivation in a different district; fine thinskin variety, with square heads and no awns; esteemed highly by millers; yield good in good districts.

Pearl - Resembles Chidham and Essex; fine quality of grain; straw long and stout; early at harvest, and suitable for either winter or spring sowing, on rich warm soils; meals well.

Uxbridge - Apparently the same as Chidham, improved by climate, ears larger; grain small, short, and plump; fine white colour; sample beautiful, and much sought after."

Six other main varieties of wheat are mentioned.

MICHAEL POPE



## SUSSEX MILLS GROUP



### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This meeting was held on Friday 8 March 1996 at Bridge Cottage, Uckfield starting at 8.00 p.m. There were 22 people present. The meeting opened with a welcome to all present by B. Pike, Chairman. Apologies for absence were received from P. Pearce and J. Blackwell.

#### 1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd March 1995, as published in *SIAS Newsletter* 86 for April 1995 and also circulated to all present 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

Brian Pike thanked all those that helped during the year and to all the committee for their hard work. He also reported on his attendance at the recent SPAB meeting

#### 4. Report by the Secretary

D. Cox reported on a successful year although disappointed that the new leaflet of mills open to the public would not be available until the latter end of this year. National Mills Day 1995 was well supported at most mills with something like 20 mills being open. The Mills Tour in August was well organised by Peter Pearce with visits to Burton Mill, Dunton Mill, Brewhurst Mill, Rackham Mill then on to High Salvington Mill. The October Meeting was held at Michelham Priory and was successful in bringing people together to discuss many problems of mutual interest. The Chairman and secretary continue to help Stone Cross and are pleased to report that the Trust is now fully set up with charitable status. The Trust have ownership of the mill and working parties are a monthly feature.

Similarly Windmill Mill is owned by a Trust with charitable status. It was pleasing to hear that Michelham Priory Watermill Appeal had been awarded £45,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This follows a similar award to Lowfield Heath Windmill. Also Sheffield Water Mill has received £7,500 from East Sussex County Council. P. James was progressing with the list of suppliers and hoped to circulate this soon. Other assistance has been given to mills, people helped to find information regarding milling ancestors and talks to several organisations. A healthy state but we could do more with more support from members.



## 6. Election of Chairman

B. Pike relinquished the chair. D. Cox took the chair and thanked the Chairman for his work over the last year. It was proposed by S. Potter and seconded by P. Hill that B. Pike be elected Chairman. This was carried unanimously. B. Pike resumed the chair.

## 7. Election of Secretary

It was proposed by F. Gregory and seconded by P. Hill that D. Cox be elected Secretary. This was carried unanimously.

## 8. Election of the Committee

It was proposed by B. Lee and seconded by L. Cox that the following be elected to the committee: F. Gregory, P. Hill, P. Pearce, S. Potter, P. James, A. Mitchell, P. Gruber and subject to their acceptance of office J. Muddle, T. Martin. This was carried unanimously.

## 9. Any other business

A. Mitchell requested that as he had volunteered to photograph all the mills for the new leaflet he would like an authorisation letter from the society to that affect. This was agreed and the Chairman agreed to produce one.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m. Peter Hill then gave an illustrated talk on the TIMS visit to Sweden last year.

## SUSSEX MILLS GROUP OPEN MEETING

This took place on 1st October 1995 at Michelham Priory. Don Cox opened the meeting and introduced everyone. Representatives had come from all over East and West Sussex. About 30 were present with a large variety of mills represented.

1. Alex Jenkinson, Director of Michelham Priory, gave a short talk about the Watermill at the Priory, covering restoration problems, her hopes for its future and the never ending quest for funds. Apparently it is intended to replace the present wooden water wheel with an iron one (as was the original) but this together with other essential restoration will cost in the region of £50,000. The Friends of Michelham Priory are a very active fund raising group and have had such events as a Book Sale and a Cheese and Wine 'do'. One idea was to ask people fill up an old jar over a period of two or three weeks with loose change. This alone raised about £300.

2. Then followed a general discussion on fund raising. It was suggested that the fund raising could be grouped as follows:-

Small £1+	Sundries Tea-towels Entrance fees	Large £100+	Fete General appeal Sponsored Events
Medium £10+	Coffee Mornings Jumble Sales Raffle Car Boot Sale	Very Large £1000+	Commercial Sponsorship Grants from Councils
		Extra Large £10,000+	National Lottery

Souvenir Shop sales were the main way of raising funds for most groups together with admission charges. Peter Hill said Baker Ross was a very good wholesaler to deal with and their "Whirly Windmills" really did sell like hot cakes. You can get bunting from them by the yards, oh beg your pardon, the metre.

Generally delegates felt that the small items sold best. People do not come out on Sunday afternoons with £15+ in their pockets to purchase sweat shirts! An idea put forward was to gather all our cookbooks together and produce a Sussex Mills Cookbook.

## 3. VAT

was the next topic under discussion but as our own turnover was so small I took little interest in this. However my eyes nearly popped out of my head when the Miller at Polegate said his turnover was over £50,000. I didn't think I was hearing correctly.

## 4. Insurance of Mills

Various people told us what their insurance was and the amount varied greatly. As each mill is differently situated and run in different ways this was to be expected. It would possibly be cheaper if the Mill was insured as part of a collective insurance.

## 5. Funding of Mills Group Leaflet.

The leaflet was in an advanced state of planning:- layout just had to be finalised. Improvements in the layout were suggested and taken note of. It may be that a sub or donation would be required from members to finance this. N.B. WSCC leaflet exchange day in February

## 6. Filming by Professionals.

BEWARE. A few Mill Groups had had requests to use their mill for location filming. In discussion about this it was stressed that groups ought to be very WARY as a lot of havoc could be caused and the site could be left in a mess afterwards. In particular the film company should well beforehand tell you

a) What exactly they are intending to do

b) How long they will take

c) What equipment will be brought to site and you, the Mill group or representative/owner should check that the film company has Public Liability insurance and you must insist that you are given a copy of what they are filming, and not the CUT version. Suggest fees that charge are £400 for a morning filming and £500 for a whole day.

## 7. List of Suppliers of Repair Equipment for Mills

The Mill Group are having a co-ordinated effort to produce this. Peter James has started to prepare it.

## 8. Extra Help

Do you need some extra manpower sometimes? Alex Jenkinson (Michelham Priory Director) has two or three carpenters who may be available at times and are keen to help other Mills. Just ask her.

## 9. Lead Paint

Use of this needs a special Government Licence. It has to be applied for and can take some weeks. You must have the official Government document before purchase.

10. Large Grant Advice  
Nutley Windmill received £11,000 from B.T. after applying to 200 different sources. When applying for grants:-

- a) Stress the educational value of what you are trying to achieve
- b) Publicity is very important

N.B. If you do secure a large grant it can be quite a headache to get the work completed in time. Usually the grant benefactor specifies it has to be completed within a year. The advice from those who know is "Get the professionals in."

**GILLIAN FRENCH**  
(Representative of Shipley Mill)

#### REF NEWSLETTER NO. 89 JAN '96

##### Millstones p13

See *SIAS Newsletter* No. 28 October 1980, p6 'Clarke & Dunhams Patent'. This was to be found at Earnley Smock Mill in West Sussex. The note might be worth repeating.

##### Lancing Post Mill p14

This mill was rebuilt by Medhurst of Lewes. The framing was prepared and then the mill was "receded at Lansen", on 24th, 25th & 26th August 1848. Various work in fitting out continued until July 1849. This was recorded by Jesse Pumphery in his day book. See *SIH* No.17 1987 p34. I feel sure that the initials and date 1849 referred to by Guy Blythman are more likely to be for Medhurst rather than Mr. Mobsby.

##### Henfield Post Mill p15 and Newsletter 88 p14

Jesse Pumphery was involved in preparation and erection work for JAMES NEAL (not NEALE) in 1843. Jesse was working with his son Stephen out of Sam Medhurst's yard in Lewes and no doubt had a considerable influence on Neal's work at that moment. Medhurst had been in millwrighting for 20 years and held licences in millwork.

**MARTIN BRUNNARIUS**

#### NEWS OF MILLS

##### Michelham Priory Mill

They have received a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund of £45,000. This follows a similar grant last year to Lowfield Heath Windmill.

##### Sheffield Mill, Furners Green, Uckfield

Mr. & Mrs. Dyball have received a grant of £7,500 from East Sussex County Council. This will enable some work to be carried out mainly on the mill bay to protect the mill and the other two listed buildings on that site. This follows recent grants by them to Stone Cross Mill, Michelham Priory Mill, and Windmill Hill Mill. These are all listed buildings either grade II or II\* but £30,000 over two years by ESCC to mills is good news.

There is money there - prepare your case well and apply. Spending the money is not easy as I understand that an adviser is appointed by the fund to oversee the use of the money. Also the estimates for the work to be done have to be approved by SPAB and the Science Museum.

##### Isfield Mill

After many years of being up for sale, the building has now been purchased by a company restoring classic cars with part of the building being converted into two self contained houses.

F. Gregory has been to talk with the owners and various parts of mill machinery are for disposal.

##### Stone Cross Mill

The Trust now have full possession of the mill and also have charity status. Working parties are being held on the second Saturday of the month. Initial work is to clear the outside ground and erect a fence to comply with the insurance requirements. Meanwhile fundraising is proceeding but no visits are allowed to the mill until the building is safe; this applies particularly to the roundhouse which is very dangerous. I have helped at the working parties but had to retire early at the last one on March 9 when I was soaked to the skin after 2 hours. Those with better waterproof clothing carried on all day but the rain did ease off later in the day. It is amazing what a difference to the outside appearance of the mill can be made in three working days.

##### South Chailey Windmill

I have been contacted by a Mr. Holden who is concerned about the state of the remaining part of the roundhouse of this mill. (Only part of the brick roundhouse remains - no other parts of the mill survive.) If anybody else has similar views I will put you in contact with him.

##### Windmill Hill Mill

Mrs. Frost informs me that they have set up a Trust to preserve the mill with herself, her husband and three friends as Trustees. They have received charity status and are looking into ways of further fundraising in order to carry out restoration of the mill.

The Mills Research Group are planning a meeting for October 1996 at Polegate windmill. See the next newsletter for further details.

From various other newsletters sent to me:-

##### Shipley Windmill

During a recent working day the millstone at the entrance door to the mill was raised to make it safe. Whilst carrying out the task it was discovered the miller of old had the same habit as many modern house owners. He hid a spare key outside under a stone just in case he locked himself out. In this case it was hidden under half a ton of Derbyshire gritstone. Imagine having to lift that to get the spare key having just returned from the pub.

##### Jack & Jill

Work goes on there mainly in laying the track for the fantail. They also have problems with the Death Watch Beetle attacking the post. This has been treated at a cost of around £600 which they believe will prevent them having to replace the post !!!

##### West Blatchington

All seems well according to the newsletter but I know that it is the faithful few at work here. An outside fete on the green surrounding the mill last year proved a great success. The work programme continues with reconstruction of a French burr stone, progress on a Winnower,

improvements to the shop, making new cogs for the brakewheel. They have also received free from Dulux 30 litres of white masonry paint. They have purchased a set of hand operated stone querns so that people can try their hand at producing some flour for themselves.

DON COX

**NATIONAL MILLS DAY – SUNDAY 12 MAY 1996**

Sussex mills that we understand will be open to the public on the day.

Mostly for the afternoon, from 2.30 - 5.00 p.m.

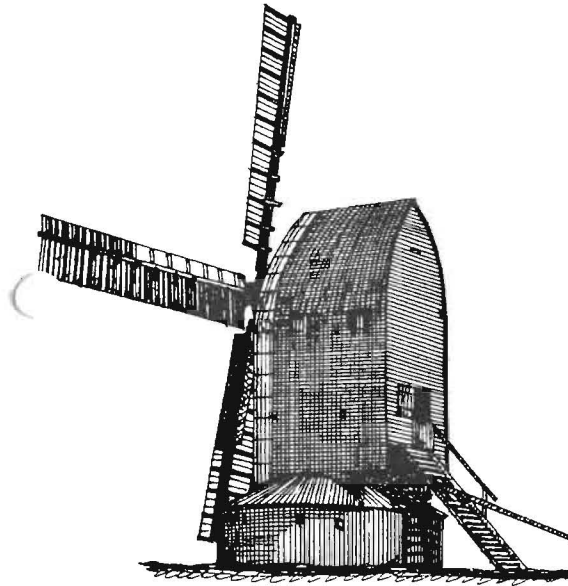
**Watermills**

Coultershaw Water Pump, South of Petworth	R.M. Palmer 01903 505626
Bartley Mill, Bells Yew Green, Frant	P.A. Garnham 01892 890372
Woods Mill, Small Dole Henfield	Steve Webster 01273 492630
Lurgashall, Weald & Down- land Museum, Singleton	Administrator 01243 811348
Michelham Priory Upper Dicker	The Director 01323 844224
Park Mill, Bateman's, Burwash	Administrator 01435 882302
Ifield Watermill Crawley	E. Henbery 01293 406132
Horsted Keynes Watermill East of village	A. Hancock 01825 790328
Burton Mill South of Petworth	01798 869477

**Windmills**

Jill Windmill, Clayton	Janet Thomas 01273 843623
Polegate Windmill Nr Eastbourne	01323 824673
Kings Mill, Shipley	David French 01403 730439
West Blatchington Hove	Peter Hill 01273 776017
Halnaker Mill North of Chichester	
Lowfield Heath Windmill Charlwood	Jean Shelley 01293 862646
Nutley Windmill, Nutley North of Uckfield	B. Pike 01435 873367
High Salvington North of Worthing	Peter Pearce 01903 241169
Chailey Heritage Windmill	James Down 01825 273007
Barnham Mill East of Chichester	01243 555728
Argos Windmill Argos Hill, Mayfield	01892 602465

**LOST WINDMILLS OF SUSSEX  
HERSTMONCEUX, BODLE STREET GREEN MILL**



**BODLE STREET GREEN MILL**

*R.C. Martin*

In 1935 Bodle Street Mill was said by Mr. W.H. King, the last man to have worked it, to be 180 years old; however a sale notice of 1807 describes it as newly-erected. By 1810 it was in the occupation of Henry Blackman of Warbleton, who insured it for £400. In 1822, when the mill was owned by Jesse Smith, James Easten was charged with breaking and entering both it and a watermill also belonging to Smith. In July of the following year the mill was again broken into and this time 8 bushels of wheat were stolen.

Jesse Smith, or a relative of the same name, was still at the mill in 1858, but J. Golborne had succeeded him by 1862. William Bristow worked it from 1866 until his death in 1891. The last millers were David Frank Baker (1895) and the above-mentioned King (from 1899).

The mill ceased grinding in 1924, not long after the breast had been entirely renewed. From then on it rapidly deteriorated. The property was at some stage put on the market, and remained unsold for a long time during which the SPAB was behind unsuccessful efforts to buy the mill for preservation. When it was finally purchased the new owners had no use for the derelict structure, and on 2nd July 1935 it was pulled over by a steam ploughing engine.

The mill was a small one with a tarred wooden roundhouse and four double-shuttered spring sails. The breast was metalled, with the metalling extending a short distance along the sides, and is said also to have been painted black. The rest of the mill was white; this kind of colour scheme is unusual in Sussex, but was at one time common in Essex, where it may be seen today on the restored mill at Mountnessing. There were two pairs of stones, a flour machine and an oat crusher. The sack hoist was driven from the brakewheel cogs via a spur wheel.

Visiting the mill in 1929, five years after it had ceased grinding, Gurney Wilson found the interior swept clean with tools arranged ready for use. A half burnt candle was evidence that the last work had been carried out by night. On a timber was carved "Wind strong 4/3/ 1818." This referred to a gale which caused the structure considerable damage.

GUY BLYTHMAN