



SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

incorporating SUSSEX MILLS GROUP

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CONTENTS : Mysterious Structure Revealed; More on Lime Kilns; News from Amberley; 500th Anniversary of Newbridge Furnace; Mills Group A.G.M., Lost Mills of Sussex - Iden Post Mill.

DIARY :

Saturday 17th May. Morning walk round Arundel & afternoon visit to pump house & dairy. Meet at 10-30am at Maison Dieu, immediately NE of bridge TQ 020 071. Pub lunch. Collection for Arundel Society. Contact Michael Palmer 01903-505626

Sunday 11th May. National Mills Day. Please support your local mill by an offer of help on that day. Contact Don Cox 01403-711137

Saturday 21st June. Members' meeting. Meet at Michael Hall School, Kidbrooke Park, Forest Row, at 2-30pm . Contact Ron Martin 01273-271330.

Saturday 19th July. Tour of Hastings. Meet at foot of East Hill Lift (opposite Fisherman's Museum and Sea Life Centre at 10.30am. Contact John Blackwell (01273-557674)

Saturday 2nd August. Mills Tour. Meet at Stone Cross Mill for 10-30am start. Contact Don Cox 01403-711137

Saturday 20th September. Day visit to Burgess Hill. 11.00am Contact Brian Austen 01444-413845.

Saturday 4th October Anniversary Luncheon. See below.

Sunday 12th Oct. Mills Group Open Meeting at Westham Village Hall. 2-30pm. Contact Brian Pike 01435 -873367

Anniversary Luncheon.

Those members who think they might attend let Gordon Thomerson (01444-450722) know. **Please contact him before June 1st if you have not done so already.** This is without obligation. Booking forms will be circulated with the next newsletter in July

REA

MYSTERIOUS STRUCTURE REVEALED.



I am writing about Michael Yates enquiry in the October Newsletter re the structure at Fairlands, Lowfield Heath. The following report is from an old friend, Geoffrey Potten, who keeps in touch with other former residents.

'I enclose a copy of a photograph taken in 1933 of Doris Beadle (nee Wright) with the windpump in the background. It almost appears that there was a pond in front. A tributary of the River Mole would have been nearby and the land was always very wet. Lowfield Place was where Jack Bowthorpe (a Crawley industrialist) lived for a number of years although I believe he renamed it Hyde Croft.'

Geoffrey is continuing his enquiries and has been in touch with at least six people but this report seems to settle the matter.

My thanks to Peter Longley for this letter and photo, and also to Michael Yates and Mrs Jean Shelley for their researches into this unidirectional wind pump.

MEMBERS' MEETING

Saturday, 21st June. Members' meeting. Meet at 2-30 p.m. at the Michael Hall School, Priory Road, Kidbrooke Park, Forest Row. (TQ 418345). The afternoon will commence with a visit to the Kidbrooke Farm, which was described in S.I.H. 24. We will return to the School and be shown the school, grounds and gardens then have tea. The Members' Meeting will commence at about 5.30 p.m. and I am asking any Members who are doing any interesting research to come along and tell us about it. All contributions will be accepted, no matter how brief. Please let Ron Martin know if you are able to speak (01273 271330). A charge of £4.00 is being made, contact Bob Allen and send a cheque payable to S.I.A.S. to him at 7 Heathfield Road, Seaford, BN25 1TH (01323 896724).

SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL HISTORY

The number of articles being submitted for publication has fallen and there is an urgent need for new material. It has been editorial policy to include at least one article per issue on mills and milling but such articles have recently been in short supply and this is a gap that needs to be addressed. Articles should be concerned with industrial and commercial activity within the counties of East and West Sussex. They can be historical or descriptive or both. Descriptions of structures that have been surveyed are welcome and those generously provided by our General Secretary, Ron Martin, make ideal models. Articles can be of any length, though short notes are more suitable for inclusion in the Newsletter. Articles are accepted from non-members and anyone aware of any appropriate research or investigation that might lead to an article is invited to contact the Editor. Advice can be offered on the suitability of subjects and help given with the preparation of articles for publication. Please contact the Editor, Brian Austen, 1 Mercedes Cottages, St. John's Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4EH (tel 01444 413845)

FIELD GUIDE

The committee have decided that the time has come for the publication of a revised Field Guide. It is over 10 years since the last one was published and many new sites have been found and noted since then. A sub-committee has been set up to plan this new guide. The members are Brian Austen, Geoff Mead and Don Cox. As previously the intention is to involve as many members as possible. You are the people with the knowledge. First a reminder - to be included in the guide a site/object must at least be visible to the general population from a public place such as a footpath. Preferably the site should be fully available i.e. open to the public. There may be more known places to include in the new guide than the present one; inclusions will have a very brief description and include a 6 figure map reference (8 if possible), a date when built, a comment on present use and how available it is to view. We seek your assistance and ask for members to volunteer to cover a subject. A list of subjects is available from Don Cox or from any sub-committee member.

MORE ON LIME KILNS

Since writing in the January Newsletter I have been looking at various lime kilns - particularly those at Ditchling at the foot of the Beacon (TQ 329133)and in Westmeston (TQ 339132), where in both cases there is a pair of shaft kilns of which only the draw arches are visible. I have also had another look at the ones at the bottom of Clayton Hill (TQ 298139)and have just carried out a survey of these. I have also been asked by the South Downs Conservation Board to do a survey of the Offham Chalk pit (TQ 399118) where there are the remains of two kilns of the four noted by Margaret Holt in S.I.H.2. There are still many more to be investigated.

I have also been looking at the 6" maps and found them of little use. I have managed to identify a few kilns but not even all the ones I know of are shown, so there must be many more to be found by using the 25" maps. One of our members, Mr Baker of Wisborough Green has responded to my request for help. He has verified several in the Northchapel area which Margaret Holt had noted in her article in S.I.H.2 and informed me of another seven in the Balls Cross area, which he has identified from the 25" maps and confirmed their location on the ground. It is interesting that of the twelve noted by Margaret Holt in the Northchapel/Ebernoe area are all within an area of 9 square kilometres and the seven in the Balls Cross area are all attached to farms and are all within an area of 7 square kilometres. One of these at Frithfold Farm, Mr Baker can remember in 1938 when it was still extant. He did a coloured sketch of this at that time and has just done the attached drawing of this kiln as it then was. This is interesting as, unusually, it was square and had four corner piers to carry a roof in a similar form to the brick kiln at Ebernoe, which is in the same area. It also had a shelter in front.

I am still looking for more help searching the maps and trying to locate the kilns on site. Please get in touch with me if you are willing to help. If the density in the rest of the Weald is anything like the examples above described there must be hundreds to be discovered.

RON MARTIN

500TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEWBRIDGE BLAST FURNACE

Events of 500 years ago are difficult to envisage with great accuracy, but the first blast furnace in Britain at Newbridge in 1496 is well chronicled.

To commemorate the event, the Wealden Iron Research Group proposed that a plaque should be erected on Ashdown Forest to mark both the site and the anniversary. This was supported by English Heritage, and the Forest Conservators provided a low stone plinth - not unlike a medieval blast furnace in shape.



Frithfold Farm Lime Kiln.

On December 14th a representative group gathered under a cathedral of oaks on the site of the hammer pond on a crisp winter's day. Michael Edwards - a former Master of the Guild of Ironmongers - traced the history in a speech reproduced here :-

"We are gathered here today to commemorate the fact that just 500 years ago in December 1496 a blast furnace was established here at Newbridge. The technology was not new. It was already well established on the continent of Europe and in particular in the Low Countries and in Normandy. However, the Newbridge furnace was the earliest documented blast furnace in England. The iron industry in the Weald is of course much older than that. It had flourished under the Romans, after a gap of some five centuries had started again under the Saxons, and in the 13th and 14th centuries was sufficiently established to supply large quantities of nails and horse shoes to the Crown for military purposes. However further expansion was inhibited by the essentially small scale nature of the bloomery furnace technology then in use. For example, the 14th century bloomery furnace at Minepit Wood had a hearth diameter of 30 cms producing a bloom of iron probably weighing about 30 lb. It was not until the mid 16th century, after the introduction of the blast furnace here at Newbridge, that the expansion of the iron industry in the Weald really took off.

How did this innovation come about and what were its long term effects? The Ironmongers' Company, of which I had the privilege of being Master two years ago, was already established as one of the merchant guilds of the City of London by 1260 and had received its first royal charter in 1463. Like other guilds, it enjoyed a monopoly in its trade, which enabled it to control quality standards. No one was allowed to trade in the City in iron or in iron products unless he or she (yes, there were women members from the earliest times) was a freeman of the Ironmongers' Company. Members certainly traded in Wealden iron, but for the larger and higher quality items they tended to import iron from Germany, Normandy, Castile in Spain and the Baltic. Thus, although not iron makers themselves, they would have been well aware of technological developments among their continental suppliers.

As early as 1290, the Wardrobe, the Crown's administrative office of supply or central purchasing office, was permanently established in the City of London. By the early 1490s the office was under pressure to provide for Henry VII's artillery for his Scottish campaign.

Is it too fanciful to suppose that at that time officials of the Wardrobe, over a bottle or two of wine in the then equivalent of a City wine bar, heard from some ironmongers of the superior quality of iron being produced and the advantages of scale and economy being achieved on the Continent by the use of the blast furnace, coupled no doubt with complaints about the backwardness of the domestic producers?

Certain it is that it was officials of the Crown who gave instructions for the establishment in 1496 of the first blast furnace in England, that it was to be at Newbridge on Duchy of Lancaster land controlled by the Crown and that the initial output for supply to the Crown was iron shot and parts for gun carriages.

To whom were the instructions given? Not to an established and perhaps conservative Wealden iron maker. Not to a merchant member of the Ironmongers' Company with no manufacturing experience. No, the instructions were given to a goldsmith, Henry Fyner. The Goldsmiths were a craft company. They manufactured articles from gold and silver and other precious metals. They were, and still are, responsible for the assay office testing all silver articles made in the City and applying to them the well-known silver marks and for the testing of the purity of the national coinage. His surname may indicate that his family had been involved for generations in the metal refining business. He imported skilled Frenchmen to operate his new ironworks.

So perhaps that is how the establishment here at Newbridge of the first English blast furnace came about.

What were its long-term effects and why are they important?

"In the 500 years since 1498 there have been other notable milestones in the development of the iron and steel industry in this country, including Abraham Darby's Coalbrookdale replacement of charcoal by coke for iron smelting, the Bessemer steel-making process, oxygen steelmaking and continuous casting. Today the industry in England and Wales leads Europe and is among the leaders of the world in efficiency, productivity and low cost. During my time with British Steel in the 1970s, the great leap forward that made that possible was the adoption from Japan of the design and operating technology of the very large blast furnace with a hearth diameter of 9 meters, a furnace height of over 30 meters and a total height of some 60 meters, comparable in size with the NatWest Tower in the City. When the furnace is tapped, each hot metal car carries some 135 tons of molten iron to the steel making. That is only a little short of a full year's production at Newbridge. Of course, in a modern steelworks, the steel making and continuous casting processes which follow the iron making are of 20th century origin and would have been inconceivable in the 15th century. None the less, the fact remains that, without the blast furnace process of making iron, the steel industry could not operate as it does today."

"It therefore gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Wealden Iron Research Group, of which I am proud to be a member, to dedicate this plaque to the 50th anniversary of the landmark achievement of the establishment of the first English blast furnace here in the Weald at Newbridge."

Two former chairmen of the SIAS had sent a bottle of champagne for a toast to be drunk to King Henry VII whose farsightedness significantly expanded the production of iron in England.

Freddie Sowrey

NEWS FROM AMBERLEY MUSEUM

The Museum has opened for its eighteenth season. It is now open five days a week from Wednesday to Sunday until the end of October, with additional opening on Mondays and Tuesdays during the school holidays.

The eighteenth birthday year sees an enhanced programme of Special Events and the ones in the next few months are listed below.

Behind the scenes work continues apace planning new developments and improvements to the Museum. As a charity, which relies on visitor admission fees for its funds, the last few years of recession have seen a reduction in visitors' income.

Although many museums have suffered such a decline, it has depleted Amberley's reserve funds. For our eighteenth birthday year we are running an appeal and

various fundraising events to rebuild these reserve funds. If you would like to help or want further details please contact Robert Taylor at the Museum.

Around the site work progresses on the construction of the railway running shed at Brockham Station on the Museum railway. This building was rescued from the path of the A23 diversion at Handcross some years ago. It is being overhauled and will house some of the Museum's locomotives in a typical industrial building.

Another rescued building has just been delivered to Amberley, and plans are in hand to re-erect it once sufficient funds have been raised. The building is the former Southdown Bus Garage at Storrington. From the early days of motorbus operation it was realised that there was potential 'commuter' traffic between rural areas and the main towns in which the developing bus companies had their bases. Accordingly, outstations or 'dormy sheds' (short for dormitory sheds) were established in strategic villages where one or two buses, crewed by local men, could be housed overnight to provide early morning and late night journeys without the uneconomical 'dead' mileage which would be incurred running such services from the main garage. When Southdown Motor Services was formed in 1915, it took over the assets of Worthing Motor Services which included a dormy shed at Storrington a very early example of out stationing in connection with the pioneer service from Worthing established as long ago as 1904. The building, typically timber framed with corrugated steel sheet cladding, has been modified over the years to provide greater headroom for closed top double deckers and lengthened to take four buses (services from Brighton, Worthing and Littlehampton passed through Storrington).

The substantial number of dormy sheds around Southdown's operating area had gradually been closed leading up to and during the National Bus Company era and Storrington, one of the first and the last, (it was the only one to last into Stagecoach ownership) will be erected as part of the extensive Southdown exhibit at Amberley.

This year also sees the launch of our engine driving courses, for anyone who has wanted to drive a steam traction engine or steam railway locomotive. Both courses will last a day, covering the basic theory and practice of driving. The traction engine courses will take place on certain Mondays and Tuesdays when the Museum is closed and the railway courses on certain Sundays. If you would like further details and the cost of each course (they would make a splendid present) please contact Shirley Fagg at the Museum.

Special Events

Sunday 20 April Cobweb Run

Sunday 27 April, Veteran Cycle Day

Sunday 18 May, Stationary Engine Working Day

Sat/Sun/Mon 24/25/26 May, Amberley's 18th Birthday Party

Sunday 22 June, Harrington Coach Rally



SUSSEX MILLS GROUP



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

The meeting was held on Friday 7th March 1997 at Bridge Cottage, High Street, Uckfield starting at 8.00 pm. There were 22 people present. The Meeting opened with a welcome to all present by B Pike the Chairman.

There were no apologies for absence.

1. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8th March 1996 as published in SIAS Newsletter no 90 April 1996 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 support and hard work. He said the loss of Peter Pearce and Martin Brunnarius would be felt by the Mills Group. It would be hard to find other people willing to do their work for mills in Sussex. The Chairman reported on his work with SPAB and the problem over the sale of Bartley Mill was discussed. Finally the Chairman gave his resignation as Chairman but agreed to continue on the Mills Group Committee. The Secretary expressed the thanks of the Mills Group and especially the committee for the work he had carried out as Chairman since being elected in 1991. He agreed to continue as Chairman for this meeting and to be a member of the committee.

4. Report by the Secretary.

D.Cox reported on a successful year. National Mills Day had an unexpected boost by the Evening Argus newspaper suddenly deciding to do a full page article the day beforehand. The Mills Tour was well organised by Peter Pearce and well supported by members with visits to Ifield Mill, Lowfield Heath, Reigate Common and Shirley

Mill, Croydon. The October meeting held at Barnham Mill was successful with a talk by a representative about the National Lottery. About 30 people attended and we all learnt something about how to obtain and spend their money. Finally the Secretary stated that there were four jobs to be organised for the coming year's events - National Mills Day ; Mills Tour in August; the October meeting ; the newsletter and the leaflet. He was willing to do one of those and unless there were volunteers for the others they would not be done and the proposed events would be cancelled.

5. Election of Chairman.

Nobody was willing to accept this position so it was left to the committee to elect one of their number at the next committee meeting to be held on 2nd May 1997.

6. Election of Secretary.

The Secretary agreed to carry on doing purely the secretarial side of the work. On that basis it was proposed by R. Martin and seconded by P. James that D. Cox be elected Secretary. This was carried unanimously. The Secretary agreed to carry on with work on the leaflet but there were no other people prepared to take the other jobs mentioned in the secretary's report. Thus unless the committee can find people at their next meeting it was agreed that the tour and the October meeting will be cancelled.

7. Election of the Committee.

It was proposed by D. Jones and seconded by L. Cox the the following be elected to the committee

B. Pike, P. Hill, S. Potter, P. James, F. Gregory, P. Hicks and T. Ralf. This was carried unanimously. The Chairman welcomed the two new committee members and thanked them for coming on to the committee.

8. Any Other Business.

The leaflet of mills open to the public. The Secretary reported that he had received cheques from 14 mills totalling £735 and that there only four outstanding all of whom had promised to contribute. P. James reported that he was still struggling with the artwork and hoped to complete this in 2 to 3 weeks. Thus the leaflet should be available for distribution some time in April 1997.

Concern was expressed about Stone Cross Mills removing sweeps with a milling expert being present.

It was reported that a sack hoist was available to a good home from a barn at Barcombe Mill.

P. Hill reported on the erection of a barn at West Blatchington Mill. This will be used for school visits and meetings.

Twissels Mill was reported as being up for sale with permission for a mill to be built.

Bignor Mill was reported as being for sale (with no machinery).

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Following the AGM L. Stevens gave a talk with slides on the Mills in the Eastbourne. There he talked of 26 mills of various types that had been built in the Borough of Eastbourne. We do not hear very often about the overlap between archaeology and industrial archaeology and it was interesting to hear about the work of Lawrence and his wife Patricia on their excavations that revealed sites of old post mills. We hope that the talk will form a basis of an article in the next Sussex Industrial History. Watch for the next edition due out later this year.

NATIONAL MILLS DAY Sunday 11th May 1997.

May is a busy month with two bank holidays plus National Mills Day. Your local mills needs all the help it can. Please volunteer to help especially on the day.

I expect the usual mills to be open plus I believe Windmill Hill and Stone Cross - please check on this. Lawrence Stevens of Polegate Mill has offered to compile a list of those open and try to get some publicity from the press.

NATIONAL MILLS DAY - SUNDAY 11TH MAY 1997

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

Mostly for the afternoon from 2.30 - 5.00 pm

Watermills

Coultershaw Water Pump, R.M. Palmer
01273 843623 South of Petworth

Bartley Mill, P.A. Garnham
Bells Yew Green, Frant. 01892 890372

Woods Mill, Small Dole Steve Webster
Henfield. 01273 492630

Lurgashall, Weald & Downland
Administrator, Singleton 01243 811348

Michelham Priory The Director
Upper Dicker 01323 844224

Park Mill, Bateman's, Administrator
Burwash 01435 882302

Ifield Watermill E.Henbery
Crawley 01293 406132

Windmills

Jill Windmill, Clayton Janet
Thomas 01903 505626

Polegate Windmill
Nr Eastbourne 01323 824673

Kings Mill, Shipley David French
01403 730439

West Blatchington Museum, Peter Hill
Hove 01273 776017

Halnaker Windmill
North of Chichester

Lowfield Heath Windmill Jean Shelley
Charlwood 01293 862646

Nutley Windmill, Nutley B.Pike
North of Uckfield 01435 873367

Horsted Keynes Watermill A. Hancock
East of village 01825 790328

High Salvington Bob Potts
North of Worthing 01903 260218

Burton Mill
South of Petworth 01798 869477

Chailey Heritage Windmill James Down
01825 273007

Barnham Windmill
East of Chichester 01243 555728

Argos Windmill,
Argos Hill, Mayfield 01892 602465

Windmill Hill Mrs Frost
Hurstmonceux 01323 833033

Books and a new Mills Video

I still have some copies of *Bygone Corn Mills in the Horsham Area* by George Coomber - price £4.50 plus £1 post and package.

Accompanying this newsletter is a leaflet describing Frank Gregory's important new book on Sussex Watermills. Mills, museums and other institutions that stock books for public sale are advised that the SIAS can provide stock of this publication at trade prices. Orders and enquiries should be addressed to Ron Martin at 42 Falmer Avenue, Saltdean BRIGHTON, East Sussex BN2 8FG tel (01273 271330)

A video released in October features three Sussex mills (Shipley, Jill, and Halnaker) and a selection of other mills from Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincs, Notts, Cambridgeshire, and Kent. The technology of windmills was perfected over hundreds of years, yet in this century they have quickly fallen into disrepair as the science of harnessing the wind became largely redundant. This documentary recalls the people who earned their living by the turning of the sails and provides an insight into the dignified and often dangerous world of wind power.

Starting with post mills, winded by hand, we see innovation leading from larger Post Mills with fan tails to Smock Mills and Tower Mills. The film explores the differing sail types, sail numbers and regional variations. The whole milling process is seen in detail along with grain cleaning, flour varieties, millstone types and stone dressing. We look back at the days of feudal milling and also at the current work being carried out by millwrights and dedicated volunteers.

This excellent and informative video (approx 60 minutes) which will not be available in the shops, may be obtained through either Simon Potter or me at the published price of £15.99 plus postage and packing of £1.00.

Mills For Sale.

Bartley Mill. This is at present a commercial/tourist attraction and although the owner assures me that he wants to sell as a working mill, the sales particulars read as an ideal house conversion. Also the machinery is extra. It is a listed building and SPAB and Wealden Council are looking into this. However yours for about £500,000.

Bignor Mill. Set in rural Sussex at the foot of the Downs 4 miles south west of Pulborough this is yours for slightly less at £485,000. No machinery and a house conversion.

Leaflet.

See AGM minutes for details. We are running late but hope to be able to distribute the leaflet by the time you read this newsletter. We have managed to finance the printing of the leaflets by asking mills to contribute £50 per mill. This has worked well with most mills contributing. However next time we must also pay for the artwork to be done. Anybody any suggestion ?

Meetings.

I make no apologies for repeating from the AGM minutes that we must have more people to organise meetings.

Mills Tour on 2nd August 1997. Peter Pearce made a preliminary start by contacting four mills to go to. This needs finalising.

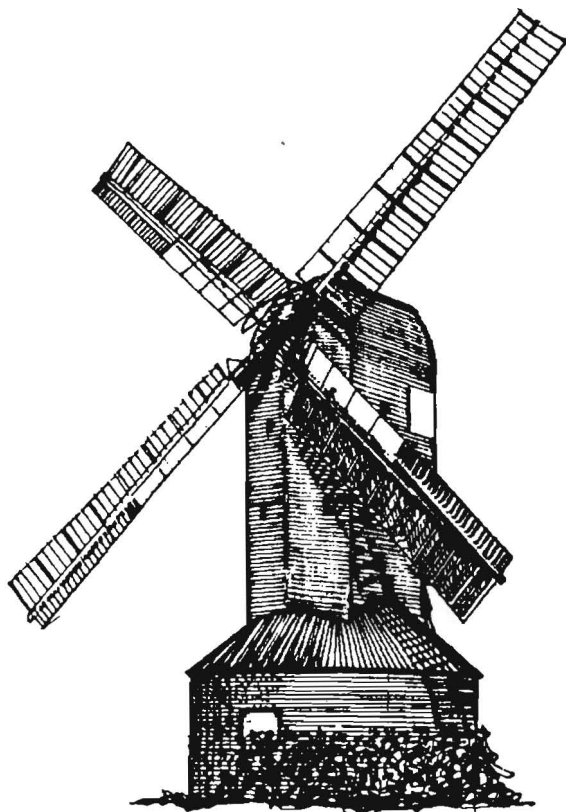
If nobody comes forward the tour will be CANCELLED. Watch the next newsletter for information.

Mills Meeting on 12th October 1997. This needs organising. Unless somebody volunteers then this will be CANCELLED. Watch the next newsletter for information.

Don Cox - Secretary

LOST MILLS OF SUSSEX
IDEN POST MILL.

IDEN POST MILL



R.G. Martin

When precisely this mill was erected I do not know. In 1834 it was owned by Benjamin Baker; he later failed in business and by an indenture dated 8th February 1843 the mill was assigned to Peter Dulvey Stonham, of Udimore mill, and three other gentlemen who held the property in trust until 1844 when it was disposed of. James Henbrey, who had previously worked a mill at Playden, was at Iden in 1855. Henbrey was succeeded by his son William in 1888, and in 1897 the mill passed to William Wood. Edward Wood, presumably a relative of the latter, was using it in 1903; he was the last man to work it. One Arthur Goble also operated the mill at some time. The last owner was Theodore Smith. The mill ceased work in 1904 and was pulled down for its timbers a few years later.

I den was a white post mill with a two-storey brick roundhouse and four spring sweeps. Two features seem to point to its having been the work of a millwright from Essex or Suffolk, rather than Sussex. One is the tall and very narrow body, and the other the absence of a tail wheel with the two pairs of stones being located side-by-side in the breast and driven from the brakewheel via spur gearing. However, the mill was not that much taller and narrower than certain other post mills in north-east Sussex, for example Riseden, and the arrangement of the stones would not have been unique in South-East England; am I correct in thinking Reigate Heath in Surrey exhibited it? What do others think about this?

In common with Boreham Street mill, East Wittering tower mill, and a few others the sweeps were serviced by a travelling stage.

Observations on Udimore Mill

I read with interest the article in the January SIAS newsletter concerning the Lost Sussex Windmill at Udimore and would like to add a few observations.

According to the land tax records at Lewes the mill was in existence in 1715. the miller being one John Sloman. Mr. Blythman's 1790 copper coin could have meant anything - a stake in a wager, a love token - maybe even a charm (c.f. copper bracelets) against the attentions of the Death Watch Beetle. The post in fact remained in store in Rye, until it was recently sold, apparently to a sculptor, and came back to within sight of its former workplace. The obviously extensive beetle depredations could well explain the mill's demise and eventual destruction because of its 'danger to the public'. (Much of its work was, ironically, taken over by a steam engine. alas! no longer extant). Several other pieces of the timbers etc. are on display in Rye Museum, and numerous Udimore properties boast millstones of various quality as ornamental features. The mound is still in existence, a pleasant sunny garden surrounded by shrubs, and sheltered nowadays from the northerly winds by a mature stand of substantial trees. The central, circular lawn was extensively excavated last year, but little of interest came to light - some sherds of late 19th. and early 20th century pottery, a few clay pipe fragments, and one or two late 20th century artifacts. It should perhaps be explained that the elaborate excavation had however no particular plan, and was conducted exclusively by *Talpa europaea*, i.e. moles!

Yours sincerely, Derek Miller-Timmins (Hon. Secretary Brede Steam Engine Society.)

Stop press : Some more observations on Udimore have just come in from Gerry Goodrich. They will appear in July's newsletter.

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Northern Area	E.W. Henbery, 10 Mole Close, Langley Green, Crawley, (01293) 06132

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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.

Mills Group

(Copy for the Mills Group section should be sent to D.H. Cox whose address is below.)

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Secretary	D.H. Cox, 3 Middle Rd, Partridge Green, Horsham, RH13 8JA(01403) 711137
Committee:	F. Gregory, P.Hicks, P Hill, P. James, S. Potter, B. Pike, T. Ralf

LATEST DATE FOR COPY FOR THE JULY NEWSLETTER IS JUNE 14th
Copy for the newsletter should be sent to:

R.E. Allen, 7 Heathfield Road, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 1TH, 01323 896724

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