



SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

incorporating SUSSEX MILLS GROUP

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Diary of Events

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.

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

Saturday 29th November. 12-00pm Haywards Heath Town Hall. Anniversary
Luncheon followed at 2-30 pm by the AGM. See below or contact Bob Allen
01323-896724.

Anniversary Luncheon.

It has been decided to combine the 30th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon with the AGM at Haywards Heath Town Hall. The lunch at Clair Hall on the 4th October will not take place. The lunch on 29th November will now take the form of a finger buffet at 12 noon for a 12-30 pm start. The cost will be £12-00. Application forms will be included with the October newsletter. For those wishing to attend the AGM only (at 2-30pm) there will, of course, be no charge.

THE SOCIETY VISIT TO ARUNDEL

On a sunny Saturday morning, 17th May, twenty-two members assembled in the riverside garden of the Maison Dieu, now more correctly known as Blackfriars. Michael Palmer greeted us and introduced Mrs Sarah Rodger, Secretary of the Arundel Society. With the aid of photographs she gave a comprehensive sketch of the past trade and industry of the town, much of it centred around the river and mostly along the north bank, from Town Quay by the bridge downstream to Nineveh Quay (boat-building), past Tarrant Wharf to Stone Wharf, now overshadowed by the A27 by-pass bridge. Beyond that were two industrial sites - the gas-works and Penfolds Tortington Ironworks, which celebrated 150 years on the site in 1983; it specialised in farm and domestic ironware and machinery, the facilities including iron and brass foundries. All has now disappeared, replaced by a 'desirable' housing development.

As Mrs Rodger was indisposed, a walk to see these sites was led by Michael Palmer; viewed from across the river the retaining walls of the old wharves were undergoing major repairs, though little other than the names remain in most cases. The fine knapped flint gunpowder store has been rebuilt, reputedly in its original form, as housing. Further along on the south-east bank stands the body of South Marshes tower mill, now incorporated in a private residence.

There used to be two breweries; one on Tarrants Hill, now only a pub, was owned by Lambert and Norris, while the other, Constable and Henty's Swallow Brewery, was behind the old Bridge Hotel. These served some twenty-five pubs plus a number of lesser ale houses. Maltings in Queen Street supplied Lambert and Norris although opposite Swallow Brewery; an oast house is all that remains.

After losing much ship-borne trade to developing Littlehampton, the railway provided further competition, giving the coup-de-grace in 1950, when electrification of the line necessitated a fixed bridge, with severely restricted headroom over the River Arun at Ford. Arundel Station had an extensive goods yard, with an unusual two-storey goods shed of attractive proportions, which still exists.

Commercial buildings worthy of note are the warehouses in Arun Street and River Street, and our morning tour finished at Bartlett's Steam Mill, a fine solid brick building on Town Quay.

For the afternoon session, with an addition of two to the party, we toured the farm in Arundel Park just below Swanbourne Lake, led by David Julian of the Wetlands and Wildfowl Reserve, who lease the buildings. Designed by Robert Abraham for the 13th Duke it was built in 1845, in time to be admired by Queen Victoria during her visit in 1846. The buildings are all matching in Victorian Gothic, the knapped flint in this same style has been mirrored in the new building of the Wildfowl Trust.

From the small farmhouse a vaulted covered way leads to the dairy. This is octagonal, some twenty feet across, being completely tiled internally, the floor with grey and yellow triangular tiles, the walls to a height of about fifteen feet in still brilliant white hexagonal ceramic tiles, the window in each face being framed in sky-blue and white rectangular tiles. Above the tiling, wood vaulting arches to a central lantern. A marble fountain in the centre of the floor complements the thick walls to maintain a moderate cooling. Continuous round the walls is a marble 'basin' some eighteen inches wide with a rolled edge to give a depth of about two inches on which shallow bowls of milk were stood, for storage and possibly cream separation.

Next we moved to the pump house, also built in 1845 and, like the farm, grade II listed. Michael Palmer gave us an outline of the history, the machinery and hopes of preservation. Now roofless, old photographs of the building show a slatted roof with stone-capped gables, not half hipped as one might suppose. Ron Martin has surveyed this and there are hopes of re-roofing, but this alas will only conserve the machinery inside from final decay. Engineered by Stothert & Pitt of Bath around 1890, two 3-throw pumps are driven by overhead crankshafts, each engaged by sliding wood-toothed gears driven by CI pinions on a common layshaft, in turn driven through bevel gears by the submerged turbine. One pump drew from the mill-pond, while the other took water from a spring-fed well nearby. Inspected and photographed by all, the consensus was that although virtually complete, man-years of work and lottery-sized funds would be necessary to get them turning again - but Oh, if we could.'. A second pump-house built in the early 1890's, containing two pumps driven by gas engines, in the nearby chalk cliff has totally disappeared.

At about 3.30 we departed: the sun had shone throughout and sealed the success of an extremely interesting and varied day. As a member of a group such as this it was enlightening to listen to the various experts as they discussed the architectural and other features of the jumble of buildings of a long range of ages, structural styles and materials and evidence of modifications over the centuries. All the visitors will wish to record their thanks to the Arundel Estate, to Mrs Sarah Rodger, David Julian and Michael Palmer for an IA treat to remember.

Alan Brown.

NEWS FROM AMBERLEY MUSEUM

The 1997 season sees us welcoming a new curator for the Milne Electrical Collection. He is John Narborough, a former Seeboard employee, who began working as a volunteer when the collection was at Tonbridge in Kent. John spent his career at Seeboard concentrating on the design of systems for the high voltage

distribution network. He is a founder member of the Vintage Wireless Society and, therefore, is already familiar with one of the other important collections at Amberley. Since joining the Museum he has already put together some splendid lighting demonstrations for SET 97, the National Celebration of Science, Engineering and Technology, and is planning new displays to replace the Seeboard 'village' model that used to stand at the back of the Electricity Hall.

For the next few months the Electricity Hall is home to two exhibitions for our eighteenth birthday. Images from 18 years of Amberley, captured by photographer John Land, show how the Museum has developed. Even those who have been here from the start are amazed when they realise what has been achieved. The second exhibition is of watercolours of the Museum by Chichester artist, Audrey Stevens. Audrey has recorded her impressions of the Museum, its exhibits and people. She has kindly donated her paintings to the Museum and has also painted the mural in the Museum's cafe.

The Museum Trustees endeavour to make the Museum accessible to all sections of the community. We have recently improved access for visitors using wheelchairs by the addition of a new coach for our railway. Supported by a grant from the West Sussex Association for the Disabled, this coach allows two wheelchairs and accompanying persons to travel together on the railway. The coach was constructed to match our 'Polar Bear' set of coaches by a team under the direction of John Land.

Over the past three years, volunteers at Amberley have been restoring a 19 seat single deck Dennis bus. It is fitted with an all aluminium body by Short Bros. of Rochester and was supplied new to Southdown Motor Services Ltd in 1927. The bus was purchased by the Friends of the Museum and, in view of its historical importance, the restoration has been supported by the MOC/Science Museum PRISM Grant Fund. The bus was entered in the London to Brighton Commercial Vehicle Run in May and I am very pleased it received three awards for the quality of the restoration work. These were Best Passenger Vehicle with up to 20 seats, Best Passenger Vehicle Overall and Best Vehicle from the County of Sussex. The Dennis Bus will be on display in the Museum bus garage and it will attend outside events from time to time. *Robert Taylor*

Special Events

Sunday 22nd June	Harrington Coach Rally
Sat/Sun 28/29 June	Garden Weekend
Sat/Sun 12/13 July	Railway Gala Weekend
Sat/Sun 19/20 July	Summer Craft Fair



**SUSSEX
MILLS GROUP**



NEWSLETTER

DIARY OF EVENTS.

Saturday 2nd August 1997 Mills Tour. Yes this is still on. Meet at Stone Cross windmill just off the old A27 at 10.30 am. Please park at MR 614 043 public car by roundabout when approaching from the west and have a 10 minute walk to the mill. Four mills are on the schedule to visit during the day. Thank you to Brian Pike and Simon Potter for carrying on the work of Peter Pearce to enable this tour to take place.

Sunday 12th October 1997 Mills Open Meeting. NOTE change of venue. Meeting will be held at West Blatchington Mill, Holmes Avenue, Hove. Meeting will be in the new barn erected there adjacent to to mill. There will be a talk about researching the history of mills by John Roles, Head Keeper of Museums for Brighton and Hove. We shall also discuss sources of mill information and also what is expected from Sussex Mills Group.

Sunday 3rd August 1997 - Talk at Polegate Windmill - 2.00 pm
My Milling Family by Martha Terry

Sunday 7th September 1997 - Talk at Polegate Windmill - 2.00 pm
Windmills in Art History by Lawrence Stevens.

Sunday 19th October 1997 - Talk at Polegate Windmill - 2.00 pm
The Mills of Hungary by Peter Hill

News of Mills.

Park Mill, Batemans. A general winter cleanup had been carried out.

Nutley Mill. Corn was ground in February 1997 and it is hoped to obtain a building to house repaired items.

Shipley Mill. Maintenance continued over the winter months and a series of films made partly at Shipley was being shown on BBC1 on Saturday evenings.

Stone Cross Mill. They are having problems with the National Lottery application and with rebuilding the roundel. This was due to English Heritage asking all sorts of questions without giving any approval to date. A site meeting had been arranged with them.

West Blatchington Mill. The barn adjoining the mill was being erected by Hove Council at a cost of £64,500. This should be completed shortly. After April 1997 the ownership of the mill will be with the new Brighton & Hove Unitary Authority.

Oldland Mill. Work continues in the restoration of the mill despite being refused money from the National Lottery. Timbers for a new breast beam had been obtained to allow the construction to be as requested by Vincent Pargeter.

Chailey Mill. Following a grant from the National Lottery the cap has been removed and work is being carried out by Chiltern Engineering.

Lowfield Heath Mill. The roundhouse floor has been laid again from oak laid on joists on brickwork. Work on the mill to be funded by National Lottery money had been put out to tender and it is hoped that work will start in August. This includes fitting the brake wheel; refitting the stones and the drive mechanism ; work on the bins and on the sails.

Jill windmill. Regular working parties had continued over the winter and a new fence had been erected.

Windmill Hill Mill. Here further land had been purchased and it is hoped that a new entrance to the mill with further parking can be arranged. An application for National Lottery money had been made.

Michelham Priory watermill. Work was in hand on the restoration of the mill: mainly the supply and fitting of a new cast iron and steel water wheel plus work on the pit wheel. It is hoped that they will be able to mill flour again by mid-summer.

Hole & Son, Millwrights, Burgess Hill. It has been reported that Hole & Son from Burgess Hill was now part of the Dorothea Organisation. What this means we hope to find out.

Bartley Mill. Following my note in the last newsletter Mr Garland the owner rang to say that the machinery to operate the mill is included with the sale. However the additional machinery that is extra to the mill price is the ancillary modern equipment

installed by Mr Garland - I think this is the equipment to process the flour prior to selling as flour.

Water Mill to the north of Wisborough Green. Colin Clark phoned me to say that he had come across what he considers to be the site of a water mill at map ref TQ 0485 2710. Ground evidence he says look promising but there is no mention of such in the Tithe Map Apportionment for that part of the parish of Wisborough Green. A public footpath crosses the remains of a pond bay. Can any one help ?

Don Cox

National Mills Day - Sunday 11th May 1997 - Reports from mills.

West Blatchington Mill report from Peter Hill.

This was a most successful day. With the mill dressed overall and blessed with sunny weather, we welcomed approximately 60 visitors who enjoyed looking over the mill and watching a demonstration of grinding and rolling using the Lister 4 hp stationary engine and Bamfords mill recently donated us by the Jill Preservation Society. This was our first time using the engine and mill and after several attempts we finally managed to get the two in correct alignment thereby keeping the belt in position and not lassoing the innocent onlookers ! A local farmer kindly "loaned" us a good quantity of Barley and was delighted with the results of our efforts which he collected at the end of the afternoon ready to feed to his animals. Within the mill complex we had three amateur radio enthusiasts feverishly twiddling knobs and dials and successfully making contact with 65 other broadcasters including 13 of the 80 plus mills who were taking part in the day's event.

Publicity of this important event in the milling calender was disappointing despite the very commendable efforts of Lawrence Stevens of Polegate Windmill on behalf of Sussex Mills Group. He collated information and listed all the county's mill participating. This he dispatched to all editors of all the local newspapers but regrettably in most instances little detail was published.

Jill Windmill report from Simon Potter.

This year's National Mills Day was celebrated with traditional bunting. It was not practical to drape the bunting on the sweeps, as it would have been shredded in the high winds, so the fantackle and site were draped instead.

In the day before, a strong steady wind enabled us to mill some stoneground flour for selling to the visitors. This was eagerly purchased. A number of Society members travelled long distances to see Jill on this special day.

Coultershall Mill report by D.Cox.

I spent the day here and despite pleasant weather attendance by the public was poor. However those who did come were interesting to talk to with many having memories of past events in the milling scene. Attendance here depends very much

on passing travellers making an instant decision to come and see what is happening and the working fountain helps this.

Report from *Polegate Windmill* by Lawrence Stevens.

Polegate windmill had over a hundred visitors on that day and took £180. Attractions included cream teas, the Southdown Amateur Radio Club transmitter and for the first time in several years, the wind was strong enough to turn the sweeps. Recently fitted electric motors drove the Wire Machine and the Eureka Cleaning Machine for the first time. Oats were rolled in the motor driven Whitmore Binyon roller from Glynde Mill, Beddingham. Children ground oats on our newly acquired hand quern and on the mill plat, local farmer Davin Vine drove his swede cutter with our 1924 Ruston diesel engine, Anyone want any swede pulp ?

Report from *High Salvington Windmill* by Bob Potts.

National Mills Day at High Salvington mill was supported by Worthing Amature Radio Club setting up a special event radio station in the grounds of the mill with a call sign of GBO HSM, the same sign which has been used for the last 12 years. Mills contacted included West Blatchington, Shirley (Croydon), Shipley, Nutley, Polegate, Outwood, Upminster. In all 15 mills were contacted plus other non milling contacts from far away Russia and Italy.

The mill was open for viewing and over a hundred visitors were received, many of whom were enthusiasts with interest only in the windmill. Some of the visitors had heard about our Lottery Grant and studied the plans of the new barn in detail. We sold sponsorship of the barn by visitors paying 50p for the privilege of writing their name in a tile. The souvenir stall did a roaring trade in childrens windmills and refreshments sold like hot cakes.

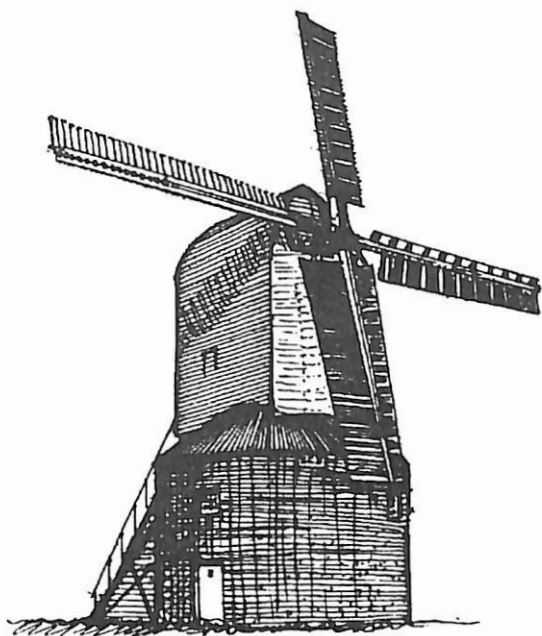
Lost Mills of Sussex.

Wartling, Boreham Street by Guy Blythman.

Boreham Street post mill was the last in Sussex to be built totally from scratch. That was in 1848 and by an unknown millwright from Lewes. It originally had a very low roundhouse, but owing to the growth of neighbouring trees was raised and a much larger one, with three storeys, built up underneath. This roundhouse, in comparison with which the body appeared relatively small, was quite possibly the highest in Sussex as well as having the greatest diameter. Only one other example of a three storey roundhouse, at Ifield, is known to have existed in the county. The increased height of the mill necessitated the provision of a travelling stage, like that at East Wittering tower mill, to enable the miller to reach the sweeps; this is visible in several of its photographs. The mill was built for Robert and George Edmunds, who in the event used it for only a few years. By 1866 George Edmunds was miller. George Kenward Junior.

presumably a son, had succeeded him in 1878. It was let from 1880 up to the time of its closure to a family named Sinden. Its maintenance tended latterly to be the responsibility of millwright Luther Pearce, although Neves of Heathfield worked on it at one time.

The mill ceased work in 1915 and in December 1925, sweepless but otherwise in good condition, was demolished by a Mr Fred Milham. The huge pile of bricks from the roundhouse remained at the site for some time. The mill was a white one, with four double-shuttered spring sails and two pairs of stones which after the structure's demolition were installed in a watermill. An auxiliary steam plant was housed in an adjacent building and worked separately from the windmill.



BOREHAM STREET MILL

R.G. Martin

THE LOST MILLS OF UDIMORE

The degree of accuracy needed when contemplating something which no longer exists presents a formidable challenge. Guy Blythman's interesting article on Udimore Post Mill (Newsletter No.93) prompted me to delve a little deeper into what for me became a mystery.

I discovered that apart from Mr Blythman's dissertation no one else appears to have given any significant thought to the 'vanished' windmill. Apart from Arthur C Smith who at least gave map reference TQ871189 both the Rev. Peter Hemming (1936) and Martin Brunnarius (1979) merely acknowledge the former existence of a mill in Udimore village.

The village of Udimore lies off the B2089, midway between Broad Oak and Rye. Reference to notes originated by the late H. E. S. Simmons I discovered that not one but two windmills probably stood in Udimore. Both were but a short distance to the east of Udimore church. Sloman's Old Mill also a post mill was built sometime prior to 1724 and 'disappeared' sometime after 1779. The other mill known simply as Udimore Mill, was erected sometime before 1813 and was demolished, probably in 1922.

The mystery therefore centres on the period 1770-1813. If Udimore Mill was built in 1790, it should have appeared on maps for 1791 and certainly for 1795 - but it did not. In fact it did not appear on any map until 1813 - why? If George Sloman was the owner of a mill in 1801, which mill did he own? Surely, one would have thought, Sloman's Old Mill, but we know that this mill was demolished sometime after 1779.

My conclusion is that we have a father and son situation. Sloman senior. was the owner of Sloman's Old Mill (c1724-c1779), whilst Sloman junior. built Udimore Mill sometime between 1796 and 1800 and sold it to Richard Chester in 1802. I think the copper coin dated 1790, found fixed to the post, pre-dates Udimore Mill by at least six years.

Gerry Goodrich

Iden Post Mill

Had the unnamed author [omitted by the Editor in error] of the brief article on Iden post Mill consulted Farries and Mason "The Windmills of Surrey and Outer London" about Reigate Heath Post Mill, he would have found no difficulty in confirming that this mill had two pairs of stones in the breast, under-driven from the brake wheel. This arrangement was probably installed during the modernisation of the mill in the mid 1800's. Farries and Mason claim there is structural evidence that Reigate Heath was once a head and tail type.

In addition to Reigate Heath post mill, two pairs of breast stones were reported in Coulsdon Common Old Mill, Coulsdon Common New Mill, Mugswell and Tadworth. These five represent about 15 per cent of the well documented Surrey post mills indicating this arrangement was quite common in this county.

Michael Yates

Book Review.

Watermills of Sussex - Vol 1 East Sussex by Derek Stidder and Colin Smith.

At last we have some information on Sussex water mills but what a great pity that there are no references. The Acknowledgements are the only clues to sources except where stated in the text. The standard or reproduction of the copies of maps is poor but the photographs are good quality. It is always difficult to know in what order to put mills. These are by their water sources - rivers and streams with an index at the rear.

There are a few mistakes that have been pointed out to me, but on such a work some must be expected. The book will be a great help to tell people where to go for information on water mills. At £19.95 selling price seems a bit dear especially when we will have to pay the same again to obtain the West Sussex volume 2 when this is published shortly. However I recommend this to mill enthusiasts.

Don Cox

Obituaries

Hugh Fermer.

We regret to report the death of Hugh Fermer on the 13th April. Hugh was a very sound member who contributed much to the aims of the society. He was the author of several articles in SIH, and also conducted us round the Foredown Tower in Portslade a few years ago. He was also a very active volunteer at the Amberley Museum for a number of years, having re-organised the engine machine workshop and presented it to the visiting public in a way which could be understood by all. He also wrote a small book on "The History of Machine Tools" (still available at the Museum price £4-95) which was geared to attract school leavers into the craft, without being too technical. Hugh's expertise in this field will be long remembered.

As a friend he will be sadly missed: he was a very modest and self effacing person and one of the world's real gentlemen.

Gordon

Thomerson

Arthur John Haselfoot

It is with great regret that we record the death of our previous President, John Haselfoot on the 10th of May at the great age of 92.

John was an Oxford MA, achieving a first in electrical engineering, a Chartered Engineer, and a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical Engineers. His career was spent in the electrical supply industry and was involved in erecting power stations. He became Technical Director for the company for which he worked. During the war he was responsible for repairing supply lines damaged in the blitz in London.

After retirement he developed a great interest in Industrial Archaeology and was secretary, Chairman, and finally President of this Society for 10 years. After the initial stage of the formal arrangement between the National Trust and the SIAS, he became very involved in the restoration of Bateman's water mill and other projects. John was a former trustee of Amberley Museum and made it his business to know exactly what was going on in all aspects of the Museum. His foresight and vision were of great benefit to the Museum, the results of which are still evident today. Unfortunately John became so deaf in the 1980's that he was unable to hear at meetings and reluctantly retired from active committee work. He was asked to become Vice President of Amberley Museum in 1990.

John was very thorough and painstaking in all that he did and had the gift of passing on some of his skills to those with whom he worked. The SIAS owes him a great debt of gratitude, and the responsibility of continuing the work he did so much to stimulate.

Gordon Thomerson

Replica 'Bow Bells' Milestones.

In an article under this title in newsletter 73 (Jan. 1992 p10 ff) I mentioned a wood and plaster replica of post no 30 given to East Grinstead Town Museum in 1989 after a police clear-out of unclaimed property, having been 'found' in a garden at Ashurst Wood. My puzzle at its provenance now seems to have been resolved. In July 1995 Mr Basil Thomson of Otley, Yorkshire, but until May 1997 a resident of Ashurst Wood, remarked in his covering letter with a donation to the Museum, 'I have a replica I made of the 30 mile stone in my garden'. No doubt he was also responsible for the one left in Ashurst Wood and now in the Museum.

M.J. Leppard

What's on in Chichester!

This year, four important transport routes into Chichester have anniversaries: the Canal, the Railway, the Selsey Tramway and the Westgate Bypass.

A new exhibition "*Travelling Through Chichester*" at Chichester District Museum shows how canal, railway and then road transport have transformed Chichester and then the lives of local people. A number of items from Poyntz Bridge are being exhibited. The bridge is being restored by S.I.A.S. members.

The Chichester Canal opened 175 years ago, part of an ambitious scheme to link Portsmouth and London by canal. Barges brought coal to the new gasworks at Basin Road, lighting up homes in Chichester by gas. The exhibition includes a rudder that fell off one of the barges found by the Canal Society during restoration work!

A hundred and fifty years ago the railway from London was extended from Chichester to Portsmouth. The exhibition includes models of local locomotives and equipment used by local railway workers.

A hundred years ago the Selsey Tramway opened. It ran from Chichester to Selsey and very little was bought new. On display is a large brass name plate "Ringing Rock" from a small steam locomotive which was already third-hand when it arrived at the Selsey Tramway.

The Westgate Bypass opened ten years ago, one of the major road schemes around Chichester built in response to increasing traffic. In 1904 there were just 125 cars in West Sussex. Goods were carried by railway and horsewagons. Today almost everything that people eat, wear and use has been brought into Chichester by road vehicle.

"Travelling through Chichester" Exhibition at Chichester District Museum will be running from 24th May to 10th October: 1997 at Chichester District Museum, 29 Little London, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1PB, telephone (01243) 784683. Opening times are Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00am to 5.30pm. Admission to the exhibition and the rest of the museum is free.

The *Chichester Canal Society's Canalside Water Fair* is to be held on Sunday 17th August in the Chichester High School for Boys' Playing Fields, Kingsham Road, Chichester, which are alongside the Chichester Canal. It is the 175th Anniversary of the opening of the Chichester Canal. There will be a lot of children's events and attractions, with boats of all types using the canal, some especially decorated for the occasion. More importantly the playing fields are alongside the Poyntz Bridge, a historic site, restored and maintained by the S.I.A.S. This would be a good chance to view the bridge and have a day out.
Entrance Fee: Adults 50p Children Free *Chris Bryan*

Caledonian Iron Works

100 Years ago :- "Mr Peter Buchan, Engineer, Caledonian Iron Works, Caledonian Road."

Iron working was originally carried out to a very considerable extent in Sussex and the adjoining counties, and it was the destruction of the woods for fuel for the iron industries, that principally caused the disappearance of the ancient forests in these parts. Iron smelting is no longer practised here, but we still have some notable iron and engineering works where a large amount of machinery, etc., is turned out. Among these the Caledonian Iron Works, owned and personally managed

Chichester district. The business represented by these works is a very old one, having been established over eighty years. It was acquired some thirty two years ago by Mr Buchan from Mr Meaden, the then proprietor, and since then Mr Buchan has made a high reputation in engineering circles. Indeed, he had already an established reputation as a sound practical engineer before he came to Chichester.

He was born and schooled amid the great engineering works of the Clyde. He had practical experience in some of the largest establishments there, as well as in Ireland and England, when he acquired the present business; but he was still a comparatively young man, with great energy and enterprise, and since then he has made a large and influential connection and stamped his individuality on the business and public life of the historic cathedral city. He has spared no effort to make and maintain a well deserved reputation for sound conscientious workmanship in every article turned out of his works, and he has paid special attention to the improvement of agricultural implements and machinery. In this connection it may be said that the whole future of British agriculture depends on the adoption of scientific methods of working with a view to efficiency and economy, and this of course includes the use of the most perfect machinery and labour saving appliances that can be devised by human ingenuity. Mr Buchan has contributed largely towards this end, and his specially designed three-wheel reaping transport and hay elevators of both of which he is the patentee and sole manufacturer, have proved a great acquisition to the agricultural interest, and have been adopted by the most enterprising farmers.

The works are well situated alongside the railway, so that every facility is at hand for the direct receipt and despatch of heavy goods, with the least expense for handling. They are of very large extent, and well equipped with improved modern machinery and appliances for forging and finishing iron work of all descriptions; and a considerable industry is now carried on here in making and repairing agricultural appliances and machinery of all kinds. The very best material and workmanship are put into every job, only thoroughly skilled men being employed, while Mr Buchan gives a personal supervision to every detail, and not only superintends his workmen, but when necessary can take off his coat and show them practically how the work should be done. It is this practical industry and conscientious devotion to whatever work he puts his hand to, that have enabled Mr Buchan to make his way successfully in life, and to attain the distinctive position he now enjoys in the life.

Born in Glasgow, he received his early education in Glasgow normal schools, and afterwards studied mathematics at the Andersonian University under Professor Taylor, and chemistry under Professor Penney. Later on he was in business with his father, and subsequently entered the works of J. and G. Thomson, the celebrated marine

engineers of Clydebank. During those years he obtained a valuable experience of ship-building and engineering on the Clyde, and after spending some time in Ireland, he accepted an important post in Bedford, where his superfluous energy found vent in his leisure time in studying at the Mechanics Institute and taking an active part in debating societies, political and social activity, and in fact every class of work tending to the social, moral and intellectual, and material advancement of the industrial classes.

When he acquired Mr Meaden's business he went first to Tangmere, about three miles away, but finding this position inconveniently far from the railway, he eventually settled down in Chichester, where, in spite of the demands of his business, he has found time and energy to devote a great many public movements. He has helped to found the Ratepayers' association, which has done so much to stimulate public spirit in the city, and the success of this body was so rapid that in the very first year every candidate of the Ratepayers' Association was returned on the borough council. Mr Buchan is now himself a member of the city council, and is also a guardian of the poor, and a life governor of the Chichester infirmary, to which latter position he was elected by the United Friendly Societies of Chichester and District, of which body he is at present chairman. He is also chairman of the Ratepayers' Association, vice president of the Chichester Total Abstinence Society, and, in fact, takes an active interest in every body or movement tending to the advancement of the city, in the promotion of its material prosperity, as well as the social and moral elevation of the working classes. Mr Buchan is a Liberal in politics, a member of the YMCA and also of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, but he is by principle a humanitarian in the highest sense of the word, and is respected by all classes in the city for his sterling worth and unshrinking public spirit.

*from Views and Reviews - Chichester, a trades advertising magazine.
Printed by W.T. Pike and co., Grand Parade Brighton . Possibly 1895 or 1896*

Brede Steam Engine Society.

The Society has just had its 3rd AGM. Now that Southern Water are to renew the roof of the Worthington-Simpson Engine House, plans are being made to further equip a workshop on the premises. Indeed a lathe has been transported to the site and awaits installation. The Society is anxious to recruit new members. So if you are not too busy recording the IA in your local town (*nudge nudge contact Ron Martin*) you might like to wield a spanner or emery paper under excellent direction. or perhaps help to prepare a photographic display for open days. If you would like to know more, contact our secretary, Derek Miller-Timmins, at Udimore Mill House, 01424-882343, or come along to the site on the first Saturday of each month when it is open to the public.

Officers

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Mills Group

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

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