

THE TIDE MILL

GOLDEN EDITION

LIVING MUSEUM

Patrons of the Tide Mill: Lord & Lady Framlingham

MILLENNIA

Some of you may have noticed that hidden inside the word 'millennium' is the word 'mill', which has a strange relevance this month.

Windmills have been around for more than three millennia, water mills have existed for over two millennia and tide mills more than one millennium. Woodbridge has had a tide mill for not far short of a millennium (847 years) and our very own Tide Mill will soon have survived for a quarter of a millennium (224 this year).

But here's the astounding fact: this newsletter is exactly one two hundred and fortieth of a millennium old this month (just do the maths: there are 12,000 months in a millennium), and if that is not something to celebrate then it is hard to know what is.

And we must remember to express our gratitude to Bee Farrell, as this newsletter would not have reached 50 issues without her having slogged away at over 40 previous issues.

Our Tide Mill will probably be the last one here - after all, there is not much call for newly-built heritage (the reason is in the word heritage), so we must all do what we can to ensure that someone celebrates it reaching its own millennium, one day.



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

The season is in full swing and the weather is helping us to attract visitors to the Mill, but please do take the opportunity to pop in if you pass by.

As we approach the Trust's AGM - 7pm on 7 July at the Shire Hall, with refreshments provided - we need to look at filling gaps in our resources as Nigel and Anne Barratt cut down on their workload. In particular, it would be great if you or someone you know could help us out with administration and day to day finance matters. A job share here would be excellent to allow the work to be spread. In addition to this, if anyone - preferably a qualified accountant - would be willing to become our Treasurer and be part of the Management Team that would be a great help. If you need more information do call me on 01394 384695.

I look forward to meeting many of our Friends on 7 July. If you can attend the AGM it would help us if you please mail Anne at: anne@barratt1.myzen.co.uk so that we can get the catering right.

John Carrington, Chair of Trustees

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ADJUSTING TO WORK



A WELL-ADJUSTED PERSON
IS SOMEONE WHO CAN
MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE,
WITHOUT GETTING NERVOUS.

OLD FACES AT THE MILL

Not many people realise that, in addition to the nine trustees, some of whom are active helpers, there are over fifty regular, active and willing volunteers working to keep the Tide Mill living. They undertake a variety of activities and represent a vast and diverse body of brains and/or brawn and without their generous help we would not survive. But, who knows of them? Your editor has been a Warden for some years (currently on sabbatical from that rôle) but even he cannot put faces to more than half of the so-called Fellowship of the Mill, or Band of Siblings, if you prefer. Some amongst us are leaders and some are followers, not to mention the others (fortunately, we seem not to have any 'others' just now, but,

in truth, we would not mention them if we did), but we all seem to hang together quite well. However, as one finds with any group of volunteers, the situation is somewhat fluid, with some people unable to continue for various private reasons, and others joining, so, if your name is not here, and it should be, or is here when it should not, then please let Ed. know (WTMeditor@gmx.com) as we hope to soon revisit each group, when the record can be put right. Or, if your name is not here, and you would like it to be, then contact Bob Spillett on 01394 385295 or at robert.e.spillett@btinternet.com By any standards, this team of regular, active and willing volunteers would be equal to a respectably sized business

organisation, but, unlike most business organisations, they are regular, active, willing and volunteers - so no-one hears about them and they hardly know each other, outside their immediate group, that is. Consequently, to celebrate this fiftieth edition of the Tide Mill Newsletter we hereunder publish a complete list of all (we hope) current (ditto) helpers together with the tasks they have taken upon themselves and, in subsequent issues we hope to revisit each group and provide details of their activities and the people in the group, with photos where they will let us. In this way, the Fellowship of the Mill will go forward with stronger bonding and less ignorance of those working with them. Here we are...

ACTIVE TIDE MILL VOLUNTEERS & TRUSTEE

Ansell, Brian	Stonemason	Ed.	Newsletter	Luxmoore, Peter	Bagger & Maintenance
Attwell, Stephen	Trustee	Falcone, Veronica	Guide	Lynam, Jane	Fundraiser & Guide
Auber, Tom	Bagger	Farrell, Bee	Guide	Malpass, Dave	Miller
Barratt, Anne	Admin & Guide	Farrell, Kes	Warden	Morter, Anna	Fundraising
Barratt, Nigel	Everything & Trustee	Feelingham, Victor	Flour Sales	Perkins, Clare	Trustee
Bartlett, Rachel	Leaflets	Freeman, Karen	Flour Sales	Politowicz, Leon	Miller
Bellingham, Victor	Bagger	Freeman, Richard	Flour Sales	Potter, Margaret	Leaflets
Booth Smith, Margaret	Guide	Garraghan, Gerry	Warden	Pritchard, Greg	Bagger
Bolton, Keith	Bagger, Guide, Leaflets, & Maintenance	Gartley, Anne	Fundraiser	Readhead, Alan	Flour Sales
Brackley, Ann	Fundraiser & Leaflets	Gurney, Carol	Bagger & Leaflets	Reid, Wendy	Bagger, Guide & Website
Brackley, Brian	Bagger, Leaflets & Flour Sales	Hale, Fraser	Engineer, Guide & Records (& Apprentice Miller)	Riggs, Judy	Bagger, Fundraiser, Guide & Leaflets
Brereton, Dil	Bagger & Leaflets	Harvey, Stephen	Guide	Singh, Rockey	Warden
Brereton, Steve	Engineer	Hayter, Barrie	Guide	Smith, John	Engineer & Trustee
Bull, Richard	Engineer	Hayter, Oscar	Assistant Guide	Spillett, Bob	Everything & Trustee
Buxbaum, Tim	Trustee	Heath, Peter	Engineer	Tarrant-Willis, Dan	Guide, Miller & Senior Warden
Carrington, John	Trustee (Chair)	Holdcroft, Geoff	Trustee	Watson, Pam	Miller
Chapman, Rick	Engineer	Hunt, Ian	Warden	Were, Ann	Fundraiser
Chapman, Maggie	Flour Sales	James, Glyn	Guide	Whitaker, Ron	Bagger
Clark, Ann	Guide & Leaflets	Leming, John	Everything & Trustee	Wood, John	Engineer, Guide, Leaflets & Miller
Clogg, John	Guide	Lockhart, Sharon	School Visits		

ENGINEERING GAZETTE

This month's report is about two incidents that kept us busy.

The first was a large bloom of weed/algae on the pond. This has happened in earlier years, and the pond becomes covered with the weed. This year, it was particularly bad, and risked blocking the intake. So a band of us set to with rakes to clear the growth. We also tried a rope with weights across the pond to drag the weed to the clearing team, which worked well, and we managed to clear most of the bloom. John and Richard also managed to clean the screen over the intake whilst the pond was drained down. Cleaning this fixed

screen is not easy, and John Wood and I had discussed trying a removable one in front of the fixed one, which is firmly built in. Our friendly developers of Whisstock's came up with a plastic mesh. John W tried it out, and it fitted almost perfectly. Now we can easily lift the plastic screen, clean it, & put it back. It has already done its job, but the users (who shall remain anonymous) didn't replace it.

The second incident, on the same day as pond clearing, concerned the water stone. The grain is fed to the stones via a chute with flow controlled by a shutter. This shutter is held in place by a small wedge on a light line to stop it going walkabout. Dan, our warden-cum-guide and jack-of-all-

trades, was on duty milling. He went to check the flow rate of the feed and noticed the little wedge (minus light line) disappear into the throat, or eye, of the stones. Fortunately he stopped the water wheel in double quick time and let us pond-cleaners know what had happened. Fishing around in the stone's throat/eye was unsuccessful. So not wishing to adulterate our flour with an additive, I said we must open the stones up and clear the sawdust out. Richard organised this, and found the wedge wedged at the feed side of the stones undamaged. An awkward situation avoided. Life on the Maintenance Team is never dull.

John Smith

THE MILLER'S CHRONICLE

On the site where the current mill stands millers have been using tidal energy to grind wheat into flour since, as far as we know, 1170. The current Mill was built in 1793 and today we are still milling using tidal power. There are several millers and trainees who through their collective volunteered effort annually produce around six or seven tons of flour *. I am grateful to be involved in this process as a miller. It's a marvellous thing to be able to do and I feel an important tradition to maintain as a working example of sustainable green energy. The actual work of milling using power from a natural source has a therapeutic element that I find meditatively calming. This element extends beyond the milling work in to my life in general. My view is that this is probably based on a primeval sense of independence from the modern industrial world to a realisation and welcomed relearning of the necessary



inter-dependence and acceptance of one's place in the natural world.

This is made clear when we plan a tidal milling rota which has to be based on the time and height of the tides; we can only mill around low tide and the mill pond can only be filled with the previous high tide. Simply the natural environment decides when we work and when it is possible.

So milling using tidal energy is about what the moon is doing rather than the sun or clock, as the tides are mainly powered by the gravitational pull of the moon as it orbits the earth, we are for want of a better

explanation, using gravity as our core power source and water as a propulsion system.

If this type of thing interests you and you would like to have a go and volunteer please contact me at the mill, or at 01394 389673, or dantarrantwillis@yahoo.com

Dan Tarrant-Willis

* So far this year we have produced 2846.09kg. (For those of Ed.'s age this is 2ton, 16cwt, 2lbs, 9oz.)

BUSKER'S CORNER

No need for busking this time - hooray!



ART GALLERY

We have still not had any photos of your fine artwork sent in, or any of the less fine stuff either, so Art Gallery will be left ticking over until you do send us something, or if not, then eventually, it will make a quiet and dignified departure.

Tales of Mills (and Millers)

Instead of reading a tale of the miller or the mill, why not think about baking? The high protein and nutritious Tide Mill wholemeal flour doesn't just deliver incredibly light and tasty bread, but is highly versatile. The Tide Mill has published an interesting facts and recipes book, and this Mincemeat Cake (a variation of a simple fruitcake) is a tremendous hit with anyone who samples it, and no trouble to make if you use shop-bought mincemeat.

225g (8oz) Tide Mill Traditional wholemeal flour
10g (2tsp) baking powder
140g (5oz) softened butter
140g (5oz) soft light brown sugar
85g (3oz) sultanas
450g (1lb) mincemeat (a jar)
3 eggs

Grease and line a 2lb loaf tin or an 8 inch round cake tin, preferably non-stick.

Beat all the ingredients together. If the mixture is a bit stiff, stir in a little milk to slacken it. *How easy is that!* Bake for 1¾ hours in the oven (150C/300F/Fan130/Gas Mark 2).

Cover the cake after 20 minutes or so if the top is getting too brown. Leave in the tin for 15 minutes then turn out and leave to cool. If you like, you can sprinkle the top of the cake with Demerara sugar before baking. This gives a lovely crunch and tastes good.

A classic pairing throughout Lancashire and Yorkshire is to serve a rich fruitcake with a slice of zesty crumbly cheese. Lancashire and Wensleydale are two favourites, but our Mincemeat Cake is also delicious with a piece of strong cheddar!

Nigel Barratt

(This article first appeared in the EADT, June 2017)

WARDENS' DIGEST

Some reflections of my eleven years involved with the Tide Mill, and counting. I was interviewed by Geoff Gosling after presenting an old photograph, taken by my brother-in-law in 1974, when the wheel had been restored but not enclosed under cover! We met by mutual arrangement in a pub local to ourselves and afterwards, after a good pint, Geoff invited me to come down to the Mill on a Saturday afternoon to talk and to show me the basics. When I got there he told me to look at the Tide Mill book and he left me to show people around (no formal interview) while he popped into town (it was September, with not many people around) and then at 4:30 Alan Brewer came

in to cash up. That was my induction! *[I had a similar experience in 2009, but Alan Brewer was the culprit. That must have been their training method at that time. Ed.]*

As I have now lived and worked in Woodbridge for 45 years I know many friends who come down to see me at the Tide Mill, as visitors.

I watched gradual changes such as when the wheel deteriorated and stopped working in 2007 because its wedges had slipped - the estimate to repair it then was £35,000.00. A bid by Fred Reynolds to get Lottery funding failed in 2009, but Nigel Barratt revised and rewrote the application, in 2009, which was eventually successful. The Tide Mill closed for the season in 2011, reopening in April 2012.

Following not long after this came the good news from the Environment Agency that milling would be allowed once again *[In fact, I think it was the local council's food and hygiene people and not the EA. Ed.]*. Keith Bolton decided to be a miller and I swapped to his wardening day of Thursday, with Bee Farrell taking over my Saturdays.

I have had many interesting people come here and hope to tell some funny stories in future issues of the newsletter, but perhaps the most interesting was when Jean Gardner's daughter, son-in-law and their children came last summer. More reflections at a later date. Bye for now.

Ian Hunt

SCHOOL REPORT

Two schools sent groups of pupils to visit the Tide Mill in early June.

A group of 13 year old pupils from Orwell Park School came on the 7th. Millers Dave and Pam were on hand to demonstrate milling with the electric stones and by opening up part of the Tun cover we were able to show them flour emerging from the rotating millstones.

On June 14 a class of 22 bright and bubbly 8/9 year old girls from Ipswich High School visited. Their timing was perfect for the turning of the waterwheel and once again millers Leon and Pam were able to show flour being produced. As they are studying rivers we mounted an exhibition on that topic with material from Chris Moore. This highlighted the uses of the River Deben past and present.

We thank Bee Farrell for helping on the 7th by bringing her expert teaching skills to provide the group with an enjoyable and instructive visit.

Bob Spillett

Alan Murray 1937-2017

Alan served the Trust as an enthusiastic and dependable warden for over fifteen years after his early retirement from a career with BT.

He started work for the telephones part of the Post Office as a youth on leaving school, working in the local exchanges. Two years in the armed forces, again in telecoms, saw a return to the Post Office and eventually BT when the separation of the two parts came about, continuing to work in the Suffolk area.

After retiring Alan served a number of community organisations including the Tide Mill. His wife Hazel told us that his favourite activities were his allotment in Melton and serving as a warden at the Mill.

Alan is missed by his many friends in the Trust and we give thanks for his loyal service.

Diary Dates for 2017

Woodbridge Regatta 16 July	Quiz Night 16 September
U3A Visit 17/18 July	Aldeburgh Food & Drink September
WI (Spixworth) Visit 20 July	Shucks Festival September/October
Maritime Woodbridge 8-10 September	Mill Closes 29 October
For mill working times this month go to this link: Turning & Milling	

Correspondents: all copy for inclusion next month to be sent to WTMeditor@gmx.com by the middle of July please.