

THE TIDE MILL

LIVING MUSEUM

Patrons of the Tide Mill: Lord & Lady Framlingham

WE SHALL NOT FIGHT THEM OFF

With the new season fast approaching...

Even though large tracts of Woodbridge have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Tourist, and all the odious apparatus of Tourism, we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end, we shall fight for our share in our Tide Mill, we shall greet them on the quayside and the riverwalk, we shall greet them with growing confidence and growing strength in the fresh air, we shall defend our heritage, whatever the cost may be, we shall greet them on the Pit Floor, we shall greet them on the Stone Floor, we shall greet them on the Crown Floor; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for one minute believe, this Tide Mill were subjugated and starving, then other Volunteers from beyond the horizon, armed and guarded by their moral stand, would carry on the struggle, until, in good time, the right among us step forth to the rescue and liberation of our Tide Mill. And they will say, "This was their finest hour."

(With apologies to Sir W Churchill)



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Even though we are in the closed season it's been very busy on all fronts at the Mill.

The area I want to touch upon this month is marketing, advertising and PR. 20,000 leaflets are being printed ready for distribution around the area for the season. A new Instagram page has been set up which we'd love you to follow - just search for Woodbridge Tide Mill - and we've been posting on Facebook and Twitter with the recent French exchange children visiting from Woodbridge School.

We've also signed up for a Greater Anglia promotion which should see train passengers being encouraged to visit the Tide Mill with a 2 for 1 offer.

We welcome Ellie Hutchinson to the team [see next page. Ed.]. Ellie is the person who is helping us improve our reach with social media - you may recall my appeal for help in the last Newsletter.

John Carrington, Chair of Trustees

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2
Active Tide Mill Volunteers & Trustees

New Face At The Mill

Page 3
Tales of Mills (and Millers)
Où Sont Nos Visages?
This Month's Flour Production

Busker's Corner

Page 4
Oaken Pondering
Pictures of Visit by UCL
Word Wheel

Page 5
Diary Dates
Other Tide Mills
Spring Cleaning Party
Word Wheel Answers

ENGLISH SPOKEN HERE



WE GET MANY FOREIGN VISITORS TO THE MILL - AND I SWEAR THEY ALL SPEAK PERFECT ENGLISH TO EACH OTHER, WHEN OUR BACKS ARE TURNED!

SPRING CLEANING PARTY

Please see, and respond to, the appeal/invitation on the last page

The Fellowship of the Mill series of articles has finished, so we now present the current list of Volunteers and Trustees. If your name is not on is list, because we have missed you, then please accept my apologies and, more importantly, let me know at once! However, if your name is not on the list and you would like it to be, then contact someone as soon as you can.

Top-class training (optional) is about to start for this season.



ACTIVE TIDE MILL VOLUNTEERS & TRUSTEES

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



NEW FACE AT THE MILL - ELLIE HUTCHINSON

I am truly blessed to have been able to grow up in this beautiful part of the world, Woodbridge is such a lovely town with the iconic Tide Mill alongside the River Deben. I am so overwhelmed to be warmly welcomed by the team to assist with social media platforms.

After completing my GCSE's at Farlingaye High School, I decided to specialise in Hotel Management. I attended Suffolk One Sixth Form College in Ipswich where I studied for a level 3 extended diploma in Hotel Management for two years.. finishing with a triple distinction star. I then went on to the University of Essex for a further two years, where I have recently graduated, achieving a 2:1 in a BA (Hons) degree in Hotel Management at the Edge Hotel School.

More recently I have entered motherhood - becoming a mummy to our first baby boy, whom we've called Sonny. He's a little monkey and already keeps me and my husband Michael on our toes.

Helping at the Tide Mill is a nice bridge back into working life and gives me something new to challenge myself with.

Tales of Mills (and Millers)

I should apologise to Geoffrey Chaucer. But perhaps that's where we should start. Chaucer did not like millers at all, and mentions them several times. He calls the miller a loudmouth and buffoon, who steals corn, and has a 'thumb of gold'. The prologue to the *Millers Tale* shows him as drunk and rude, interrupting the host to tell his own tale. The *Reeves Tale* is all about a miller who is a bully and who steals wheat brought to him for grinding. So the stereotype of the miller in mediaeval times was a drunken, rowdy bully, cheat and thief.

And it wasn't just Chaucer – there is an old rhyme from the Middle Ages which starts -

"Take a miller who does not steal
And a lawyer who is legal
And a priest who is not greedy ..."

(Now it's apologies to lawyers and priests)

But is this stereotype fair? Back in the Middle Ages and earlier, the miller was equally as important as the priest and the lawyer, and not far behind the lord of the manor in status. Bread was the biggest part of the diet of most of the population, so people were dependant upon the miller. The lord of the manor either owned the mill, or would levy a tithe (or tax) on the miller. The serf would be required to use the estate's mill, paying the miller a fixed charge by weight for the flour being ground. In today's terms we would call it a captive market or a monopoly. The miller would often also operate a bakery, and again the lord of the manor might make sure it was the

only one. Mills often stayed in the same family for generations so the family could grow seriously rich. The miller was said to have various ways to make his extra money. The 'thumb of gold' in Chaucer refers to the practice of tampering with the scales by using his thumb to give a higher weight to the ground flour, so charging a larger fee. He might also adulterate the wheat flour he gave back by adding flour from cheaper grains, or even sawdust, keeping the surplus for

himself. It all may just have been envy, but here at Woodbridge Tide Mill, we only have willing volunteers working hard to produce a good wholesome wholemeal flour, the sales of which help sustain this unique heritage asset of Woodbridge.

Nigel Barratt
(This article first appeared in the EADT, September 2016)

Où Sont Nos Visages?

Here is a clear demonstration of the hard work put in by Bob, Dan, Leon, Jane, John and Stephen showing around a bunch of incognito French exchange students from Woodbridge School on 6 February.



Photos: Simon Ballard

This year production of our super flour has been 437kg in Jan and 148kg to mid Feb, which amounts to a total so far this year of 585kg. (3½ Sacks. Ed.)
(For this purpose a Sack of 26 stone, i.e. 364 lb, is used)

BUSKER'S CORNER

When the tides of history chose man should start milling,
No lack of artistry could make him unwilling,
So he set to with passion, now cometh the hour,
But his face became ashen. From where would come power?
The wind is so fickle, making output erratic,
And the stream was a trickle. But his thoughts turned aquatic.
With the Deben so handy and a mill pond so feasible,
A Tide Mill would be dandy, with the stored tide releasable.
Which he then, to his glory, built well and soon flourished,
And so ends our story, with his kin all well nourished.

Oaken Pondering

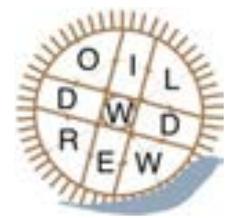
We're a seafaring family, but my great grandfather could well remember the very first Tide Mill being built in Woodbridge in 1170. We have lost records of when he went to sea, but his son was in the good ship *Matthew*, when John Cabot took her to find North America in 1497. Sadly, he went down with the sinking of *Mary Rose* in 1545. His son, my father, with some of his brothers, were in the English fleet that chased off the Spanish Armada in 1588, where he was proudly walked on by Sir Francis Drake in *Revenge*. My cousin and I were just saplings at the time, but we, too, went to sea eventually - he joined *HMS Centurion* in time to help Lord Anson set off to circumnavigate the globe in 1740. I was in the merchant navy, and was quite ashamed of my relatively humble fate - especially when my ship (whose name I don't even remember) was broken up at Woodbridge when the River Deben started to badly silt up and I was cast ashore to rot. But, I managed to stay healthy and then things suddenly looked up and I was part of the construction of a brand new Tide Mill next to the River Deben. And I'm still here - who'd have thought it possible? Recently we were joined by some young cousins who helped form the new waterwheel and the new staircases. Now that we are looked after properly by good millwrights, even if they are self-taught, we should be here for a very long time to come. I've been pondering a lot on all this lately - but then, when you are an old oak beam, pondering is about all you can do - apart from helping to hold the Tide Mill up, that is.



To access all 118 of Simon Ballard's photos of this visit, download them from:
<https://wetansfer.com/downloads/b61f072eb0ea98f07e5025e173ba25ff20180217101724/4185863e946f74866364aa870bd1218c20180217101734/a95f25>

WORD WHEEL

The Word Wheel in each issue (which can be done on a scrap of paper), uses a nine letter word from the Mill Guidebook. Use a minimum of four letters for each word, one of which must be the hub letter. Give yourself ten minutes, and don't use proper nouns, plurals or foreign words. 15=average; 25=good; 35=v.good
 Answers on last page.



Diary Dates for 2018

Winter Wheel Turning and Milling Demonstrations

(Just come along and watch. No charge, but donations welcomed.)

Milling Demos at 09:00 on the 7th , 08:30 on the 21st and 14:00 on the 26th of March and at 08:30 on the 4th of April

Other Events

BBC Civilisation Festival: 9-11 March

Folk East Festival: 17-19 August

Season Starts: Good Friday 30 March
(Possible Easter Egg Hunt: 1 April)

Bank Holiday: 27 August

Schools and County Fair, Trinity Park: 19 April

Maritime Woodbridge: 8 & 9 September
(Mill open free of charge)

Mind & Body Spirit Festival (Community Hall): 21-22 April

Shuck Festival: 29/30 September

Beowulf: 4-7 May

Halloween: 31 October

National Milles Weekend: 2nd weekend in May

Quiz night: 16 November

Bank Holiday: 28 May

Fireworks: 11 November (Possibly)

Stall at Suffolk Show: 30/31 May

Santa's Grotto: December (Possibly)

Regatta: 17 June (Father's Day)
(Mill open free of charge)

For full general mill working times use this link to the website: Turning & Milling

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

Other Tide Mills

Woodbridge was the last commercially operating Tide Mill and, out of an apogee in excess of over 200 in the UK, is now one of only two Tide Mills still producing flour for retail to the public, the other one being at Eling, on the edge of the New Forest in Hampshire. But, here are nine more surviving Tide Mills, all in the UK, but most are not active. Use these links for more information:

[Eling Tide Mill, Hampshire](#)

[Battlesbridge Tide Mill, Battlesbridge, Essex \(converted for business\)](#)

[Carew Castle tide mill, Pembrokeshire](#)

[Fingringhoe Tide Mill, Fingringhoe, Essex \(house converted\) \(No Website\)](#)

[Pembroke tide mill, Pembrokeshire \(mill ponds only\)](#)

[Place Mill, Christchurch, Dorset \(working order, restored\)](#)

[Thorrington Tide Mill, Thorrington, Essex](#)

[Three Mills tide mill, Bromley-by-Bow, London\(aka House Mill\)](#)

[Tide Mills, Newhaven, East Sussex \(sluice only\)](#)

Go to [Wikipedia](#) for more

SPRING CLEANING PARTY

The dictionary tells us that 'party' can mean a social gathering or a group of people working on a shared task.

At the Tide Mill you can combine both these definitions by joining the Spring Cleaning Party at:

9AM SATURDAY 17 MARCH

I am told the Mill is cleaner than usual this year, so will not take too long. Believe it when you see it!

WARNING! There is a tradition that the one found shirking the most will be thrown into the millpond at the end.*

Just come and join in, but if possible let Dan or Bob know beforehand: dantarrantwillis@yahoo.com robert.e.spillett@btinternet.com

[* This is a new Tide Mill tradition that I have just invented, so the nice people in charge will not really let it be done - probably. Ed.]

WORD WHEEL ANSWERS

Worldwide, dowdier, widowed, widower, widdler, worded, wilder, weirdo, wield, wiled, weird, wider, wired, dowed, rowed, rowed, wowed, wowed, world, tower, rowed, dowed, lewd, weld, owed, drew, wild, word, lvel, wile, weir, wire, wore.