

# THE TIDE MILL

## LIVING MUSEUM

### Patrons of the Tide Mill: Lord & Lady Framlingham

### WE'RE OFF!

Not only is/was (depending on when you read this) the seasonal opening of the Tide Mill at Easter, but your patience is rewarded in this month's issue of the newsletter with the return of all your old favourites: Archivist's Review, Engineering Gazette, Miller's Chronicle, School Report and Warden's Digest which will all now only be there when they are needed.

There are also now two new features: "The Story Behind..." and "It's a Result!", which will be self-explanatory when you get to them.

Another almost unbelievable treat is included this month: to celebrate the first anniversary of your tolerance of his creator, as your humble [?] editor, Glenn Miller, over there on the right, has decided to henceforth smarten himself up, at least sartorially, and has coloured up a bit.

So much excitement!

### SPRING CLEANING PARTY

Saturday 17 March was one of the coldest this winter, but it did not prevent Judy Riggs and Peter Heath from joining Bob and Dan to form this year's Cleaning Party. We all thank them most heartily.



### VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

The new season is almost upon us! We are excited by what we can offer you and our visitors more widely.

After a busy winter and spring making flour and welcoming visitors and groups the Tide Mill has a jam-packed schedule of wheel-turning and milling times (<http://woodbridgetidemill.org.uk/turning-milling-times/>) offering visitors more opportunities to watch the historic water wheel in action and see the millers making flour. In the immediate future there are wheel-turning sessions at 11am on April 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8 April – the one on the 7th includes a milling demonstration.

The 2018 season sees a number of innovations such as participation in new events, new merchandise, extended opportunities to Gift Aid donations, an enhanced Friends package, plans for a new website, card payment, and updated information to encourage school visits. We are also now offering an outreach speaker programme so any organisations that want to hear about the Tide Mill can organise a talk.

We hope that you have renewed your Friends membership for 2018. If you haven't please do as it is a vital contribution to our work and offers so many benefits.

The team look forward to welcoming you.

John Carrington, Chair of Trustees

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### CALENDRIAL CONFUSION HURTS



NOTHING IS GUARANTEED TO SPOIL  
A FRIDAY MORE THAN THE SUDDEN  
REALISATION THAT TOMORROW  
IS A TUESDAY!

## ARCHIVIST'S REVIEW

At the last count...

Deep into the cold, dark closed season, late last year, we were approached by a lady looking for information on her ancestors, whom she believed had been millers in Woodbridge in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Their family name was Sawyer. Sometimes bureaucracy can be a wonderful thing! Exploring the UK censuses either side of the turn of the century, and cross referencing them with a couple of Commercial Directories

of the time (Pigot's, etc.) quickly yielded fruit.

In 1891 John Sawyer, a miller, was living at Ocean Terrace, Quay Side, Woodbridge. Given his address, it is probable that he was working at the Tide Mill. His employer would have been Alfred Hayward, then the owner of the Tide Mill. Anecdotal evidence, however, from the Misses Wigg and Pugh, tells us that Alfred Runacres and Arthur Cox were both employed as millers at the Tide Mill at this time. The Mill was an efficient operation requiring only a few men to operate it optimally. So, unless the millers shared shifts, which is quite possible, having three qualified

millers on the payroll at one time, seems like poor staff work. Nevertheless, John Sawyer lived and worked in Woodbridge until at least 1911 – he is recorded in the 1911 census as still being the head of the household at the Quay Side address, by which time his son, Frank, was also a young journeyman miller.

Full access to the 1921 census won't be available until 2022 – it will be interesting to see where John retires to; he would have been 65 in 1921, and if and where his son has moved on to. I'm counting the days.

**Fraser Hale**

131	Ocean Terrace (Ocean Terrace)	1	112	John Speck (Head)	M	38	38	Wholesaler
				Isabella Speck - Wife)	M			
				Frederick H. Do	Son	10		Scholar
				Herbert R. Do	Son	9		do
				Walter W. Do	Son	7		do
				Bertie A. Do	Son	5		do
132	Do	1		John Sawyer (Head)	M	35	30	Miller
				Emily Do	Wife)			
				Thomas Do	Son	9		Scholar
				Helen Do	Daughter			do

## SCHOOL REPORT

During March groups from two local schools visited the Tide Mill. On the 8th two classes of bright and lively third year pupils from Kyson School came and, despite the fact that the temperature inside the was around 5°C, spent over two hours touring the Mill with John Wood and Ian Hunt helping with the guiding. The pupils had been studying the Mill as a local history

project and so were delighted to have Dan and Leon on hand to describe and demonstrate flour milling. They finished up with working on a test sheet to find and name various parts of the mill machinery and describe their function. They departed with Tide Mill flour for future cookery sessions. Subsequently a group photograph appeared on the Mill instagram account (see page 5).

A class of third year pupils from Melton School came on the 21st. Wendy Reid helped with the guiding round the Mill and Dan, Leon and Rod were on hand to demonstrate flour milling. They all were asked many questions by a very keen group of children. The class had been studying local history and so an exhibition about the Port of Woodbridge and its importance to the town of Woodbridge was arranged using data provided by Chris Moore. A final session playing the mouse hunt game proved very popular.  
**Bob Spillett**

### LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION - HELP

Our new publicity leaflet is an important vehicle for informing people about the Tide Mill. This year John Wood has organised for a number of volunteers to distribute copies to around 150 museums, caravan sites, B&Bs, hotels, shops etc. In addition we are paying a local company to distribute leaflets to a further 300 sites in Essex and Suffolk. However, there are many more suitable sites that have not been covered. Can we ask all Friends to consider carrying a few leaflets when visiting places in East Anglia and ask to leave some if none are on display?

### Tales of Mills (and Millers)

We have no room for a ToM(&M) article this month, but will continue to feature them when possible.



**WARDENS' DIGEST**

As the season is about to start we are happy to welcome two new wardens who are joining our team: David Truusi- Franconi, whose regular days will be Friday and Sunday, and Steve Molyneux, who will work Tuesdays; you will recall that, as usual, Rockey does Mondays, Gerry does Wednesdays and Saturdays and Ian does Thursdays [A very reliable source tells me that Peter Turner is happy to still be on his sabbatical, but greatly misses his wardening. Ed.]. Dave and Steve's arrival is much appreciated and I am sure will enhance our and the visitors experience of the Tide Mill this season.

There are some new procedures being put in place at the Tide Mill: firstly, the addition of a card machine, so visitors can pay by card, and secondly, the introduction of the facility to Gift Aid the admission price, and/or donations, which will be in place for the opening day of this season.

There are more milling demos scheduled and with the Whisstock's Boatyard re-development site now completed we are looking forward to, and expecting, a busy season.

**Dan Tarrant-Willis**

**ENGINEERING GAZETTE**

The Tide Mill owes John Smith a huge 'Thank You', as it was he who got the present engineering team together. He has guided us through all the engineering work, including two large jobs. One when the huge cast-iron pit wheel came loose on the main drive shaft and the other when the inner main gudgeon bearing-pin started to come loose in the main shaft. Many other smaller repair jobs have been done, in addition to all the regular maintenance. The result of all his work is that the team can now approach most problems in-house, which is very enjoyable to those involved and very good for Tide Mill finances.

During the winter we do the monthly maintenance, which includes lubrication, hitting all wooden wedges in the building, to resecure them, and looking at all parts to make sure they are still in good condition. Milling with the water wheel is carried out whenever possible, as this ensures that all moving parts are run regularly. Balance of the water-wheel is very important, because, if the wheel is left in the same position for several days the bottom half becomes waterlogged and so very heavy and the top dries out and becomes light. The result is that the wheel does not turn at a

steady rotation and therefore makes milling very difficult. We are, therefore, very grateful to Wardens and others who go to the mill every day and move the wheel to a different position.

We have also opened up both stones to clean them out and inspect them prior to the new season.

**John Wood**



Our engineers pay more attention to the sign than this guy did!

**BUSKER'S CORNER**

Proper Poetry

Flow tide, mill pond, ebb tide,  
lade, penstock, wheelhouse,  
sluices, mill race,  
main axle beam, pit wheel,  
vertical shaft, great spur  
millstones, crown wheel, lay shaft, belt drives, wheat sacks,  
sack hoist, grain bin, grain chute, hopper, slipper, damsel,  
eye, grist, stone ground wholemeal flour.



waterwheel,  
wallower, main  
wheel, stone nuts,

If that is not poetry, then I do not know what is.

**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;  
30=good;  
40=v.good  
Answers on last page.



## THE STORY BEHIND - RICK CHAPMAN AND HIS JEWELLERY

Rick's glittering career has included jewels for royalty – and sheep!

Rick Chapman enjoys donning his overalls and helping out the engineering team, but in his day job as a craftsman jeweller, he is used to working on much smaller projects!

Rick's five year apprenticeship with top Bond Street jewellers, Asprey's, was the best possible start to a lifetime of creating beautiful pieces of jewellery. Rick was apprenticed through the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, which meant that, along with his indentures, he was granted the freedom of the City of London, which brings some bizarre privileges. They include being seen home safely by a policeman if you are found drunk and incapable, being hanged with a silken rope if condemned to death, and the right to drive livestock over London Bridge. A few years ago he exercised this right in a sheep drive organised for the Freeman by the worshipful Company of Woolmen. "It was a great day out" says Rick "I'd definitely do it again – there were about 600 people taking part, with some dressed as biblical shepherds, and some as Bo Peep!"



ALL PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE:  
M & R CHAPMAN

Whilst at Asprey's he made jewellery for the rich and famous, although the identity of the client was always kept secret. "I made a gold and diamond brooch for the Queen, and a coral and diamond choker for Princess Anne" he says, "But I only realised who they were for later on, when they were photographed wearing them. At the end of my apprenticeship I had to make what they call a masterpiece to show to the Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. Mine was a necklace of coloured diamonds with a topaz drop, which Asprey's sold for £30,000 in 1977."



As soon as his training was over Rick set up his own workshop, and was joined a few years later by his wife Maggie. They still work together as a team, now in their workshop in the Thoroughfare. Since moving to Woodbridge 4 years ago, Rick and his wife Maggie have really taken the Tide Mill to their hearts – they are having a party in the Mill to celebrate their ruby wedding anniversary in May.

### IT'S A RESULT! MAGGIE CHAPMAN'S ONE-PROVE EASY BREAD

The beauty of this bread recipe is that with only one proving, you can have gorgeous fresh bread ready for lunch without having to get up at the crack of dawn! We run courses for couples to make their own wedding rings, and as part of the day, we treat them to a delicious homemade lunch. This always includes my Tide Mill crown – and it is always really popular!

500gr (1lb) wholemeal Tide Mill flour  
(Or a mixture tide Mill bread flour and seeded malted bread flour)  
Sunflower seeds or toasted walnut pieces.  
10gr (1 r/tsp) Allinson Dried active yeast  
7gr (½ tsp) salt  
Approx 10ml (1 r/tsp) malt extract  
Approx 15ml (1 tbs) honey  
310-320ml (½ pt) tepid water



Pour a little of the water over the dried yeast and leave, covered, in a bowl for approx 10 mins. (It should go to a thick sludge)

With the flour in a large mixing bowl, add seeds or nuts, add the salt to one side, add the honey and malt extract. Add the yeast and most of the water. Mix well (I use a round ended knife and then my hands) adding the rest of the water. Knead on a floured surface for 10 minutes. For a crown (pictured), shape into 12 round balls and put in a round tin. Leave to prove, covered (a disposable shower hat is perfect!) for approx 60-80 mins depending on room temperature. Cook 30 mins. Approx 210 c. Or top shelf aga.

Although it is nicest eaten the same day – as a loaf it will keep for a few days. If making rolls they freeze really well, for 2 just defrost in the microwave on 30% for 2 minutes.



## THE MILLER'S CHRONICLE

Through this cold winter, we have managed to keep the Tide Mill producing flour and have milled more this winter than we have done in the previous two! The engineers have kept the machinery in very good order and the wardens have kept the wheel in good balance. So, as millers, we can work on fearlessly.

The Tide Mill's wholesale business has been buoyant; most notably Honey and Harvey, the Turks Head and the Co-op have kept us busy. As millers we greatly appreciate the baggers and delivery volunteers for their collective effort and help.

Without their contribution there would be no flour sales, and no sense in the milling!

We have been attempting to install a dust extraction system in the mill. This idea has faltered as we are concerned by the noise that such a system would create and the negative affect of this noise on what is a surprisingly quiet piece of machinery when it's in action. I will report our progress as we try to solve this problem.

As the open season approaches I am happy to report an addition to our team. Rod Moore, who has been milling with us for a few weeks, is now on the rota for this up-and-coming season. If you, or any one you know, would like to join us. please contact me.

The more the merrier.

**Dan Tarrant-Willis**

[dantarrantwillis@yahoo.com](mailto:dantarrantwillis@yahoo.com)

**This year's production of our super flour to date is 917.7kg.**

(144½ stone Ed.)

Sacks are variable, so we have reverted to stones, which are also more recognisable.

### NEW FACES AT THE MILL

We are delighted to announce that a number of much needed new faces have arrived at the Tide Mill.

They are Alex Downing, David Truosi-Franconi, Steve Molyneux and Rod Moore - WELCOME to you all! (Their particulars will be displayed in a forthcoming issue, so watch this space)



Kyson School Group Visit  
on 8 March

PHOTO: JOHN WOOD

**Diary Dates for 2018**

**Wheel Turning and Milling Demonstrations**

**Milling** will take place in April at 8:30 a.m. on the 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25 and 30th

**Milling demonstrations** will take place in April at 11:00 on the 7th, 16:30 on the 14th, 09:30 on the 19th, 11:00 on the 22nd, 15:30 on the 26th and 16:30 on the 28th.

**Other Events**

Season Starts: Good Friday  
30 March

Folk East Festival: 17-19 August

Schools and County Fair, Trinity  
Park: 19 April

Bank Holiday: 27 August

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

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

Beowulf: 4-7 May

Shuck Festival: 29/30 September

National Mills Weekend: 2nd  
weekend in May

Halloween: 31 October

Bank Holiday: 28 May

Quiz night: 16 November

Stall at Suffolk Show: 30/31 May

Fireworks: 11 November  
(Possibly)

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

Santa's Grotto: December  
(Possibly)

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](mailto:WTMeditor@gmx.com) by the middle of April please.**

**COME ON GUIDES! URGENT!**

**All you Guides, Putative Guides, Prospective Guides, or anyone who wants to be a Guide, but whose courage has so far failed you, we urgently need you to click onto here: [Guides' Rota 2018](#) and book yourself a slot on the rota. You'll soon love it.**

**(Tip: If you want to learn about something, such as the Tide Mill, tell everyone you are an expert on it; it is a guaranteed way to make you find out as much as you can, as quickly as possible, before someone can catch you out with an awkward question.**

**Trust me! I have lived it. I was once a consulting engineer, Ed.)**

**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 \(not-working order, restored\)](#)

[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

**WORDWHEEL ANSWERS**

Machinery, hymenia, chimey, creamy, hpmic, achey, chary, carry, hyena, meany, yearn, hairy, mynah, raihy, chyme, mercy, hymen, rhyme, henry, achy, cyan, racy, cray, yeah, yearn, eyra, yare, year, hlya, airy, many, nyam, armly, nary, yam, yech, cyme, hymn.