

TIDE MILL LIVING MUSEUM



SEASONS GREETINGS

Thanks to the thirty, or so, of you who came to the End Of Year Get Together at the Shire Hall on 17 November, where you heard John Carrington's address and saw Anne and Nigel Barrett presented with an exquisite model of the Tide Mill, made by Paul Wells, as a thank you for all their efforts.

They say, a picture is worth a thousand words, so here are a few thousand virtual words, thanks to Simon Ballard (I don't know every name, so have given none, but email me if you must know anyone)...

(And thanks to everyone who helped organise the Get Together)

Patrons of the Tide Mill: Lord & Lady Framlingham



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

By the time you read this many of you will have joined us at the end-of-season get-together at the Shire Hall. The success of the Mill is down to the family of volunteers who so diligently keep the mill maintained; mill, bag and distribute our flour; look after visitors and keep the books. Without them and the enthusiasm of the Friends group, we would not be in the sound place we are today. On behalf of the Trustees, thank you all.

However, we must build on this base. To that end, the management team have set up a number of working groups during our closed season to look at what we might do next season to raise the Mill's profile and attract more visitors. Input from Friends would be welcome. Groups will cover: Events, marketing, advertising

and PR; Volunteer recruitment; How to encourage school visits to the Mill; and, Promoting Friends membership. If you have ideas in any of these areas you would like to share please let me know at jcc@carringtoncom.com

Finally, may I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

John Carrington, Chair of Trustees



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WHY ARE WE HERE?



IF WE ARE PUT ON EARTH TO DO GOODWILL TO OTHERS, WHAT ARE THEY PUT HERE FOR?

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE MILL NO.5 THE FLOUR BAGGERS AND SALESFOLK

Okay, so we know the Trustees are important to the Tide Mill, as are the Wardens; and we know the Millers are vital for it to be a Living Museum, and the Engineers and Maintainers are equally so, for keeping it alive, but now we come to the really ESSENTIAL volunteer helpers - The Flour Baggers (some prefer 'Packers') and Salesfolk. After all, where would we be with a huge great mountain of our beautiful flour spilling out of the door? The product has to be shifted into paying people's shopping bags, and these are most of the team members who do it, in roughly alphabetical order...



Carol Gurney

I have lived in Woodbridge for 17 years and one of the things I love about it is the riverfront and the view of the Tide Mill. I did a City and Guilds Diploma in patchwork and quilting and needed a focus of study for the design work so I chose the mill. This involved coming into the mill to do drawings etc so I became a

friend of the Mill. I was so impressed by the efforts of all the volunteers in running the Mill that I decided to join them. I now help the bagging team on a Thursday morning.



Peter Luxmoore

Peter has hardly changed since last month, when you read about him as a Maintainer, so there is nothing new to read about him also being a Packer.



Wendy Reid

Hi, this is me Wendy Reid and a Thursday bagger at the Tide Mill for a few years now. I moved to the area in 2012 and was delighted to find the old mill back in operation and open again. So when my friend Carol said she was a bagger I jumped at the chance to volunteer. I have always loved mills and the water - so what could be better than a tide mill? When I was a child I lived on a boat and our first berth, after selling our house and making this momentous purchase, was alongside the tide mill at St Oysth.

By then the poor old mill was derelict and silted up. But, it made a fantastic playground. I was a child alone so my imagination and I had many adventures inside that old mill surrounded by worm eaten machinery and deep dark mud. I dreamed of making it turn again. Well, dreams don't always come true but now I can see our mill working whenever I want.

Keith Bolton

This is the very same Keith Bolton that you read about last month, when he was a Maintainer. Now he's a Packer.



Maggie Chapman

When Maggie is not walking her black lab Tilly down by the river, she can be found working along side her husband in the Thoroughfare, at Woodbridge Jewellery Workshop. Maggie draws up all the designs, and keeps the business on track with accounts and admin. Rick and Maggie have worked together for over 36 years so it's a proven successful partnership! Maggie enjoys making all her own bread - Tide Mill flour obviously - calling it her therapy. She loves spending time with their three grown up children, and also enjoys cycling and tap dancing. She is addicted to Killer SuDoku.



(Maggie sent me this photo of her bread, in the hope that I would use it in place of her mugshot, but I decided we should enjoy both - Ed.)



Unfortunately, this month some of the Fellowship of the Mill have declined to be included, for various reason, none of which are our business, but please think no less of them as we wish to acknowledge and thank them for their help.

They are:

Tom Auber, Victor Bellingham, Brian Brackley, Dil Brereton, Karen and Richard Freeman, Greg Pritchard and Alan Readhead.

(Continued on page three)

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE MILL NO.5 THE BAGGERS AND SALESFOLK (CONT'D)



Judy Riggs

My name is Judy Riggs and I moved to Woodbridge 9 years ago having lived in Newbourne for 49 years. As I had 4 acres of garden in Newbourne I was advised to move where the garden wouldn't be a worry, so now have a very small garden to look after. I have been a volunteer for quite a long time and am part of the "Tuesday Packers"; we work hard but have a lot of fun too. I also am on the fund-raising committee and am learning to bake quite a lot of goodies using our Tide Mill flour. I have two sons, two daughters-in-law and six grandchildren. I am very proud of them all and they manage to keep me fairly young! I am a S.R.N and trained at the Royal London Hospital rather a long time ago. I had a wonderful husband for forty years but he died 19 years ago, which was very hard but I am very fortunate to have a wonderful family and very good friends. I love living in Woodbridge and with my loyal friend Nutmeg go for great walks around Woodbridge. I have made many good friends at the Tide Mill it is a great place to work and I certainly recommend it. The Tide Mill is a great asset to Woodbridge and certainly needs all our support.



Bob Spillett

Dr Robert Spillett has been 'done' in issue 51, as a Trustee, but he helps here, too, in both bagging and sales. Busy bloke.



Ron Whitaker

After a career in the Motor trade, I retired in 2005 and moved from Woodford Green in Essex to Grundisburgh with my wife, Jan. I have a son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons who live in the Highlands of Scotland and a daughter and son-in-law who live in Otley.

Next month we hope to 'do' the Guides.

I have been involved in the Scout movement since the age of 8 until I moved to Suffolk. Since moving to Grundisburgh, I have joined Woodbridge Golf Club and, more importantly, the Rotary Club of Woodbridge. I am currently the President of Woodbridge Rotary for the second time.

When I was looking for a suitable place to spend my retirement I visited Woodbridge on a bright, sunny day. I found myself outside the Tide Mill and decided that the Woodbridge area would be a good place to live.

I became a Friend of the Tide Mill and initially I helped with the spring clean and clearing up after the floods.



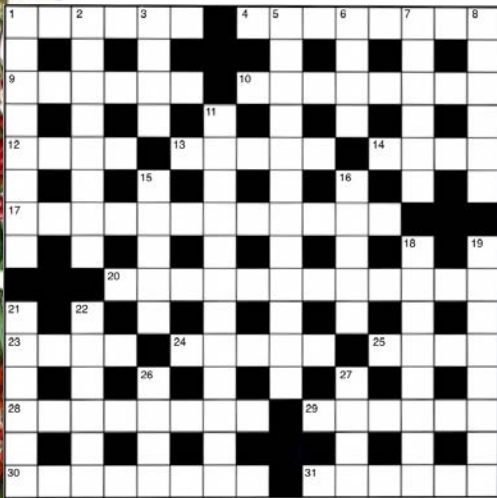
Some more photos from the gathering...

END OF YEAR PUZZLE PAGE



Here's a one-off treat for you.
No kidding!
There's no way this lot could be sorted out every month.
No prizes - just kudos if you solve them.

An A4 size print of this page will make the answers easier to write.



CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Battle to make a small computer.
- 4 The action of you swig ginger, without hesitation.
- 9 It takes silver and ten to make a fabulous destination.
- 10 Sir's pain, perhaps will need this.
- 12 Dry fruit from the Christmas tree?
- 13 Loll.
- 14 Furthermore.
- 17 Gambler bisects spouses.
- 20 Train a hundred troops to be a comic.
- 23 Part of 18 down, perhaps.
- 24 Rock 'n' roll Buddy, seen at Christmas.
- 25 Maybe rats in the Christmas treetops.
- 28 It's a cent, dear, to make a vessel.
- 29 Plonk in 28 across.
- 30 Peers' SOS, perhaps, for a sobering beverage.
- 31 Sleigh rides can cause his nasal

distinction.

Down

- 1 Basic tax can provide a safe way home...
- 2 ... or these can pay for it.
- 3 What Yuletide does on Twelfth Night.
- 5 Swallow's bias makes festive vessels.
- 6 A ring, perhaps, will make one do this...
- 7 ... but sighting these may not.
- 8 A wise precaution when staggering home. (2,4)
- 11 Kniphofia canaria will do nicely in the fireplace.
- 15 One of the nuts arriving for the holiday.
- 16 Enjoyable part of eastern celebrations.
- 18 Christmas musical?
- 19 Perhaps, if pirate sorts out the appetiser.
- 21 Maybe Declan can light the tree.
- 22 A tic from a tippie?
- 26 Erstwhile mixture of 12 across.
- 27 Interesting part of a plastic lout.

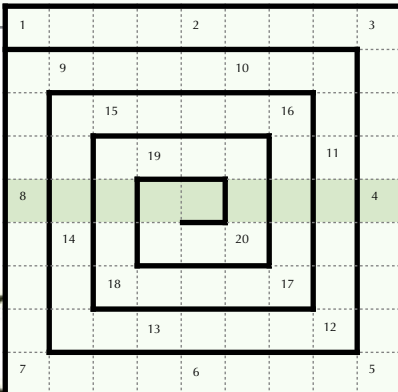
WORD SPIRAL

Start at number 1 and form five-letter words around the spiral, with the last letter of each word forming the first letter of the next, to find the keyword in the centre row.

Clues

- 1 Round thing in millrace.
- 2 Rooftop shed.
- 3 Murine denizen.
- 4 Roof edges.
- 5 Helical thread.
- 6 Triticum aestivum.
- 7 Throb of machinery.

- 8 Charm, from watching milling.
- 9 Easier, now, on proper stairs.
- 10 Main beam.
- 11 Thump.
- 12 No engineer should lack one.
- 13 An anomaly, if seen at the mill.
- 14 Milling can do this to one.
- 15 Rule, of flour-graders.
- 16 More likely in the river.
- 17 Nearly flying squatter.
- 18 For drive or support.
- 19 New ones by Keith.
- 20 In the machinery, or in the river.



WORD WHEEL

Make words of four or more letters, each containing the hub letter.

Good: 8 words
Excellent: 12+ words
Amazing: if you get the keyword

WORD LADDER

Turn wheat into bread in seven one-letter steps.

WHEAT	Clues
	Trick
	Tawdry
	Tweet
	Tiptoe
	Tenet
	Type
BREAD	Toast



Answers on page 8



SPOT THE TEN DIFFERENCES

ENGINEERING GAZETTE

This month, there are two items to report. First is on the grain chute from the grain bin to the electric stone. In the updating of the Mill in 2011-2012 the electric stone received a new tun. This left the chute almost touching the hopper. As movement of the hopper occurs and also on taking the hopper off to clean and check the stones, the chute gets knocked. This year this almost broke the chute and for most of the season it hung by two bent screws. Action needed, now it's the closed season, so John W and I took the damaged chute off and modified it. The top was shortened, the shutter removed and a large flange screwed in place at the top. By shuffling the assembly around,



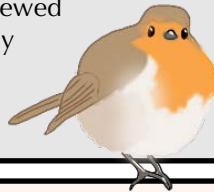
we were able to position the flange so that it was in line with the outlet from the bin and a few inches clear of the stone's hopper. We screwed the chute securely to the bin outlet and stood back. Having re-located the shutter (The source of weakness) in place of the steel shutter lower down, the whole contraption seems to work well, but is under trial as I write.

The second item is bizarre.

Dan tried to give the water wheel its regular run. It wouldn't turn. Ringing 999 to John W, he had John and Steve down as quickly as a

lifeboat call-out. The three searched for the cause, and found nothing initially. Then they spotted a breeze block jamming the wheel wedged between wheel and outer wall of the mill race. As Steve had wellies on, he "volunteered" to get in the wheel and remove the offending block. He succeeded in breaking the block so freeing the wheel. No damage done and all worked well. Breeze block in the wheel house? Well we think it must have been the one we use as a step to get up onto the beams supporting the sluice gates. This has been in the wheelhouse since time immemorial (i.e:-since I've been helping anyway). It has withstood floods, gales etc and not moved-till now. The Mill always has a trick up it's sleeve.

John Smith



Tales of Mills (and Millers)

The season is now over, and the Mill is closed for the winter. It's been a good season and many thanks to all those who visited. Being closed, though, doesn't mean everything stops. The millers are still milling, the flour is still bagged up, customers satisfied (hopefully) and the maintenance team swing into action.

In 1951, Mr. D.S. Sanders noted "*Suddenly the whole mill frame shuddered. We found the wooden packing wedges which secured the waterwheel on its shaft were out and floating away on the tide, but the wheel continued to turn in a drunken fashion on the stationery shaft*". The sterling efforts of our engineering stalwarts will prevent this again.

The stones need lifting, cleaning, and dressing. At around a ton not an easy job, but good housekeeping. Keeping the stones properly dressed ensures the high quality of the ground flour. Fully dressing French burr stones is a highly skilled occupation and in the old days when the stones were run intensively could take several days every three months or so. Woodbridge doesn't run its stones as intensively or as fast as the past, so that at the moment, "touching up" is good enough, but similar skills are needed.

So things are still always going on, you can still buy the flour from various outlets, and visits can be still be arranged – use the contact details on the website - woodbridgidemill.org.uk.

Nigel Barratt

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

BUSKER'S CORNER



Yuletide can be that special time of year,
 When people greet each other with good cheer,
 And many find their worries disappear,
 With happy greetings given most sincere,
 All helping for a lovely atmosphere.
 But, some may find their wishes reach nadir,
 With New Year prospects looking rather drear,

Though hoping that good times will reappear,
 With these times in mind, of yesteryear,
 Replete with fun and ludicrous headgear.
 So, let's all say, we each must persevere,
 To never let bad feelings interfere,
 And all who live on this magnetosphere,
 Can enjoy this time, with many a cute reindeer.
 And maybe a beer!

THE MILLERS CHRONICLE

Now that the visitor season has sadly come to an end the mill becomes less of a museum and returns to its original function as a working flour mill. On average, during each of the winter months, we produce 300kgs of flour for our regular customers. Last year we welcomed visitors to come and experience our winter milling sessions, which proved extremely popular. Consequently we will be inviting visitors to do the same this year, If you are thinking of joining our milling team this is a good opportunity to come and have a go. This is how I originally became involved myself. Please check our website for milling dates. or e-mail me directly on dantarrantwillis@yahoo.com You will be welcomed to enjoy the unique experience of tidal milling. During the winter months our engineers, who keep the mill running, carry out major and minor repairs and all the maintenance jobs that need to be done. This winter the useful addition of a dust extraction system will be installed improving both the millers and visitors experience. While all this is going on the mill has to be kept functional as if it was left idle it would soon fall in to a state of disrepair. It's a case of using it or losing it. So those of us who are lucky enough to work in and on the mill during this coming winter will continue our relationship with this marvellous and unique building. Preserving one of the most precious and historical examples of sustainable working energy in the UK.

Dan Tarrant-Willis

Milling this month on 5th, 8:30 & 20th, 8:00
 Do come and watch.



This month's production of our super flour is 301.2kg, which amounts to date this year 5824.79kg. (5ton, 14cwt, 5st, 3lb, 7²/₅oz. Ed.)

(Writing another wrong - last month I got the conversion figures right round my neck - sorry. Hubris is a dangerous protagonist. Ed.)

NEW FACE AT THE MILL DEBORAH SEABROOK



Deborah, originally hails from Essex and started her working life as an air stewardess working for Sir Freddie Laker, for those of you who remember the Laker SkyTrain. On the company's demise, Deborah travelled in search of the bright lights and gravitated to NY and gained employment with the British Embassy as an office manager. Moving back to the UK several years later, Deborah moved to the West Country and enjoyed the beautiful Devon countryside while working for Devon County Council in the education sector and held roles in marketing, training, event management and recruitment. In recent years Deborah has moved back to the South East to be close to family

and friends and has since settled in Suffolk. She now enjoys living in this special part of the world with her partner, Russell. Deborah says 'Suffolk is a beautiful County and the Woodbridge Tide Mill is such an iconic building in this part of Suffolk and a wonderful working museum. It will be an honour to work with the team ' Deborah has just joined the team at the Tide Mill to provide administration and financial support.

Archivist's Review

Eight Revolutions a Minute

Woodbridge, Suffolk, 1793

John Cutting and John Philpot, respectively a local farmer and a gentleman, have recently acquired the old Tide Mill. The mill is elderly and all of the running gear is of medieval design. The partners decide to invest in the future and rebuild the mill completely. This is a potentially risky decision – all of Europe is in turmoil as the French Revolution gathers pace and draws Britain into war. Britain's monarch, King George III is not only still reeling from the loss of the American colonies ten years earlier, he is now rattled by the thought that Revolution could spread across the Channel. A Revolution that has led to the execution of Louis XVI, King of France!

The Prime Minister, William Pitt the Younger, has to deal severely with radical reformers who have seized upon revolutionary ideas to promote constitutional change in Britain. He is also faced with the cost of enlarging both Britain's Army and Navy in order to meet the threat from the French.

Both Cutting and Philpot have interests in trading vessels, and Woodbridge is a bustling port on the East Coast route ferrying coal, iron, salt, corn, and wines and spirits between London, the Midlands, and the North. The partners feel that, despite the political uncertainty, a new, efficient mill will augment their other interests nicely.

And so, the medieval mill is pulled down, and a new one rises in its place.

The new building benefits from new technology and local skills. As well as political revolutions, the new mill is being born in the middle of an Industrial one. This same year Thomas Telford has begun his two mighty iron aqueducts across the Dee and Cierog valleys. Word of Eli Whitney's Cotton Gin has also just crossed the Atlantic. The mill's ancient, all-wooden running gear is replaced with cast iron helical gearing, meshing with precision machined wooden teeth, and the design of the water wheel and the control sluices benefits from the recently published research of engineer John Smeaton. Local oak, from Framlingham, coupled with the shipwright skills that burgeon in the town create a strong durable building that soon becomes a landmark of the riverfront.

The next few years, sadly, are tough ones for Britons. A succession of poor harvests makes corn scarce and expensive; it's difficult to import food from continents either ravaged by war or the object of an embargo. The war with France carries huge costs in the forms of money, resources and lives. An unprecedented number of businesses struggle financially, or fail entirely. Cutting and Philpot, however, weather these storms and, when the war ends in 1802, a period of relative stability returns. The partners soon decide to sell the mill, and cash in their investment.

Cutting and Philpot created a commercially viable flour factory that would endure for a further 150 years. Today their legacy is still doing what it was built to do, reflecting the times in which it was born – turning at eight revolutions a minute.

Fraser Hale



When I started the tradition several years ago of an end of season party to thank all those who helped look after the Mill, little did I think that one day there would be a party when I was only a guest. But all good things come to an end, and for Anne and I to be presented with a magnificent gift of a model of the Tide Mill, made it a special event for which we are both very grateful. Our many thanks to all those who have supported us so well over the years.

Nigel & Anne Barratt

www.woodbridgetidemill.org

THE ONE THAT (NEARLY) GOT AWAY

Leon Politowicz



Born and educated in Kent I came to live and work in Suffolk in 1989, which included visits to the offshore gas platforms from heliports in Beccles and Caister. I first visited Tide Mill in 1990 and kept aware of it ever since in a multitude of the best images of Suffolk. As a family we relocated to Woodbridge in 2002 and kept a home here, although worked and lived abroad for 4 years. On taking an early retirement in 2014 I was inspired by Nigel to be a volunteer, it only had to be decided in what capacity - milling, naturally. With more experience and seniority I aspire to be in bagging.

My background is similar to John Wood, in fact we worked for the same company for several years but didn't meet. For me it was 18 years an engineer in the Merchant Navy and 25 years as an engineer, ship and offshore surveyor for a classification society.

Glad to be here now with a few hobbies but enjoying my time at the mill with considerate people in a fantastic setting with the fragrance of raw bread.

Writing Wrongs

This is not exactly 'Writing Wrongs', more a case of misjudged humour. We have had some complaints about the "extremely sexist" cartoon in last month's issue; one of our readers was prevented from "reading and enjoying" the newsletter.

I regret offending anyone with this demonstration of my poor upbringing and amateur status as an editor. It will not happen again (I hope!). Please do always let us know if there is anything you do not like in the newsletter and, preferably, if you ever spot anything you DO like. It's the only way we can keep it popular.

With all due respects, Ed.

PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS

<p>WORD LADDER Wheat, Cheat, Cheap, Bread Crep, Creed, Breed, Bread</p>	<p>WORD WHEEL Triteur, Ruttier, Tauter, Rutter, Turret, Urate, Tuer, Utter, Tutter, Urea, Taut, Etui, True, Triturate</p>	<p>WORD SPIRAL Wheel, Lucam, Mouse, Eaves, Screw, Wheat, Thrum, Magic, Climb, Error, Baulk, Knock, Knife, River, Thumb, Buoy, Squab, Belts, Seats, Seals, Keyword: Millstone.</p>	
<p>CROSSWORD Across 1 Tablet 4 Swigging 9 Xanadu 10 Aprins 12 Cone 13 Relax 14 Also 17 Better halves 20 Cartoon strip 23 Aria 24 Holly 25 Star 28 Decanter 29 Claret 30 Espresso 31 Rudolf Down 1 Taxicabs 2 Banknote 3 Ends 5 Wassaill bowls 6 Grim 7 Icicle 8 Go slow 11 Red hot poker 15 Pecan 16 Feast 18 Oratorio 19 Aperitif 21 Candle 22 Hiccup 26 Once 27 Clou</p>			

Diary Dates for 2018

Season Starts Good Friday 30 March
(Probably)

Regatta 17 June (Father's Day) Maritime Woodbridge 8 & 9 September

For full mill working times go to this link: [Turning & Milling](#)

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