

THE TIDE MILL

LIVING MUSEUM

Patrons of the Tide Mill: Lord & Lady Framlingham

REGATTA

“Organisers of the 180th Woodbridge Regatta reported another successful event, despite Sunday’s poor weather. Regatta chairman Geoff Holdcroft said many turned out to enjoy the festivities, including record-breaking entries in the Raft Race, which was won by 5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts. “It was a wonderful day out for all the family, and the fact it was Father’s Day made it all the more special,” he added.”

The above is a direct quote from the East Anglian Daily Times of 19 June 2018.

As for our Tide Mill, we had another splendid Regatta Day with the usual number of visitors we have come to expect - except that none of them paid, of course, apart from the freely-given donations, which have been better in the past. Whilst it is entirely appropriate for pure charities, with no other money-raising devices, to resort to the begging-bucket for income, there is a case to be made that it may be inappropriate for our Tide Mill, which is a profitable business with a sellable commodity and sellable merchandise. It could be argued that to offer our commodity at a heavy discount would be more prudent than to give it away.

This opinion is not that of the Trustees or management and is offered by your Editor as a subject for future consideration.



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

As some of you may have seen, Bob Spillett stepped down as Vice-Chair of the Trustees at the recent AGM. The Trustees took the opportunity to present Bob with a glass bowl engraved with our thanks for his tremendous work. (See page 6) Bob has shown - and continues to show - a fantastic energy with his volunteering at the Tide Mill. We are delighted that, whilst standing down as Vice-Chair, Bob will still be a very active Trustee.



The Mill could not survive without the support of the volunteers who, like Bob, give so much. Only this week (early June) a small, dedicated team dealt superbly with a problem that had arisen with the mill stones themselves. Without their skill and tenacity we could have been out of action for some time.

As I have said in earlier Views, if you are not already a volunteer and feel you could support us, even for a short time each week, we would love to hear from you. To run the Mill requires a wide range of skills, so do get in touch if you feel you can help.

John Carrington, Chair of Trustees

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CONFIDENCE AT WORK



MY BOSS SAID I INTIMIDATE THE OTHER WORKERS. SO I STARED AT HIM UNTIL HE APOLOGISED.

ARCHIVIST'S REVIEW

Revvng on the Red Line

This month's article is what is called a teaser in the movie business. There is a mystery associated with the Tide Mill involving a rather dubious man of the cloth and an exploited young heiress. Details are a little scant, and I'm still working on uncovering the full story, so hopefully I'll be able to develop this into a full screenplay in the future.

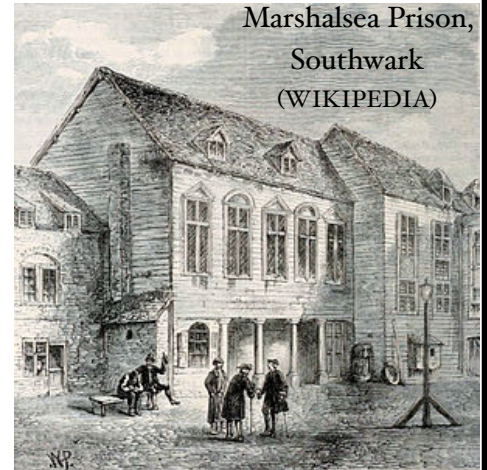
In 1779 the Tide Mill was owned by Jonathan Burward. He'd inherited it nineteen years earlier from his Aunt Elizabeth. Sadly, 1779 saw Jonathan's own demise, and his will passed the Tide Mill to his eldest sister, Charlotte. At the time Charlotte was just 15 years old, so the mill 'and its associated messuages' must have been a great responsibility.

We next encounter one of the historical alleyways where the mists of time have not yet cleared sufficiently for me to flesh out what happened to young Charlotte as she came into her majority. However, by 1791, by which time she was

27, she was married to the Reverend Henry Poole. At the time that he and Charlotte emerge from the temporal murk Henry is a cleric without a living – he doesn't have a parish, or an income – and, I suspect, a profligate.

The pair have relocated to North London by this time, and are forced, it appears, to dispose of large parts of Charlotte's inheritance. Reverend Poole, as Charlotte's husband now owner of all she possessed, sells, along with much else, the Tide Mill to a group of creditors led by Robert Rayment and James Garth. As well as, presumably, settling their current debts Henry and Charlotte are paid fifteen hundred pounds in exchange for Charlotte's inheritance.

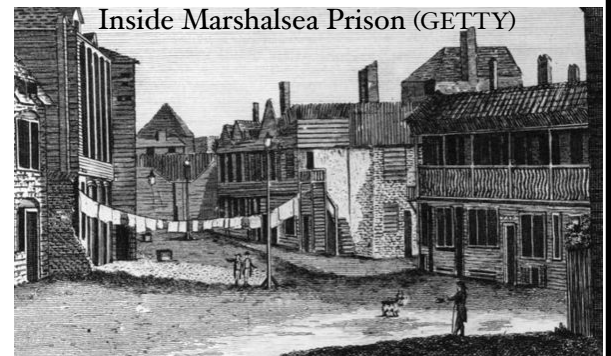
Evidence gets a bit thin again at this point, but it appears that the fifteen hundred pounds didn't go very far. In 1793, at around the time that the new owners, Messrs Cutting and Philpot were setting about rebuilding the Tide Mill, Henry Poole was in the infamous Marshalsea Prison for debt. What became of



Marshalsea Prison, Southwark (WIKIPEDIA)

poor Charlotte is, at present, unknown to me. Stories that involve Georgian debtors prisons, though, do not often also feature the words 'happily ever after'.

Fraser Hale



Inside Marshalsea Prison (GETTY)

Tales of Mills (and Millers)

Back in the day, the miller would produce a coarse flour, commonly called 'meal'. It was not something you would bake with, but it allowed high production. He would mill with the stones running at around 120 or more revolutions a minute, and could achieve up to around 250kgs in an hour. But if he tried to produce a fine flour by having the stones close together, it would generate heat; this would scorch the flour and ruin it. Instead, he would have the stones further apart to get this coarse meal, which he would then pass through a dresser. This was nothing other than a large rotating sieve with different grades of mesh, and he might produce at least two (sometimes more) grades of flour. A fine almost white flour, slightly larger specks of flour (making semolina), and sometimes a third somewhat coarser grade and containing more of the husk or bran.

There was real skill involved, and a 19th century milling engineer once wrote – "I may venture to assert that there is not one miller in 20 that knows anything about grinding well".

The flour we use at Woodbridge Tide Mill is a red spring wheat, grown in East Anglia. Generally, these varieties are a full 3% to 4% higher in protein than a usual (Class 1) bread flour, and the strength and elasticity of the protein is superior. This means that it can trap more gas in bubbles in the fermentation of the bread dough, allowing the bubbles to

expand further. The result can be a larger and lighter loaf. We run our stones a lot slower than the miller of old, and produce fine grades of flour without generating any heat. They are very suitable for making bread, cakes, biscuits and almost everything you may want from quality flour. We don't sieve it and don't use additives, so all the natural ingredients of the wheat grain are retained in the flour with nothing artificial. The quality of the flour means that a light well textured wholemeal loaf can be the end result.

You can sample the results of baking at various local places, such as the Tide Mill itself, the Cake Shop Bakery in the Thoroughfare, Woodbridge, Honey and Harvey also in Woodbridge, the Turks Head at Hasketon, and The Bakery, Hamilton Road, Felixstowe. If you like baking at home, buy the flour from us at the Mill, the Coop in Woodbridge and Darsham, Grange Farm Shop at Hasketon, Friday Street Farm, Bentley Community Store, and many others. Our only bit of advice is to work the dough a little longer to bring out the full strength of the protein.

And remember – every loaf of bread or bag of flour bought contributes to sustaining this almost unique example of our industrial heritage.

Nigel Barratt

(This article first appeared in the EADT in February 2017)

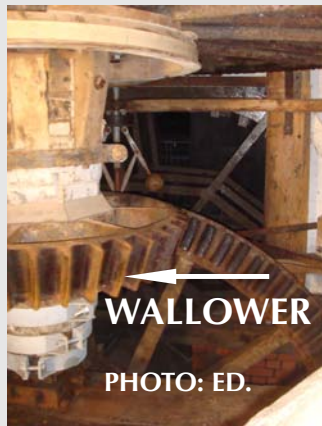
WARDENS' DIGEST

It's all go at the mill with extra milling demos and more group visits. The pace seems to have quickened from last year. It's been good to have some new merchandise, which has been selling well; we have had some jute bags and aprons made and printed in Suffolk that our visitors appreciate; Flour sales are always good and I think more so than previous years. Also gift aid is proving to be a great benefit to the Tide Mill's charitable revenue.

On the downside we had a break in on the night of 6th; a small amount of money was taken and a window smashed. We cleared up, repaired the window and opened the next day. These things happen and we have taken the obvious precautions to reduce the chances of it happening again. Our new wardens are three months in to the season and have proved themselves valiantly, both during their shifts and also helping as guides outside of their regular shifts. Thanks, chaps!
Dan Tarrant-Willis

ENGINEERING GAZETTE

The Wallower is the horizontal metal gear wheel which you see when you look through the glass partition into the pit. It is this gear wheel in conjunction with the large pit wheel which converts the horizontal rotation of the main wheel shaft to the vertical rotation of the main drive shaft. Apparently this part of the mill machinery has not been investigated for many years so is a bit of a mystery. This can be seen if you look at the bits and pieces of wood which make up the verticle shaft above the Wallower. The first problem encountered was when strange noises were



heard coming from the machinery while running. This was traced to the Wallower/Pit Wheel gearing drive. Close inspection showed that the Wallower was no longer level. It would appear that many years ago the Wallower was fitted to the verticle shaft and held up in place by wooden blocks fastened to the shaft underneath it. Shortly after installation it must have been noticed that the wheel was not level, so the low

side was lifted and a spacer fitted between the block and the wheel. After many years operating like this the spacer eventually worked its way out causing the wheel on that side to drop and causing the noise. Our temporary solution, to last us to the end of the season, was to replace the spacer and fix it securely. All seemed back to normal, and running well; however close inspection of this area brought doubts as to whether the Wallower was fitted securely enough to the verticle shaft to ensure that there was no chance that the shaft could turn in the wallower. The story to be continued when we find the answer.
John Wood

BUSKER'S CORNER

Tradition will say that the miller's daughter,
Was the ideal one to take to the altar,
A bonny young lass with a well-to-do dad,
Would make very contented a keen miller lad.
But the miller, through working hard, hour-by-hour,
Would soon meet his maker, from breathing the flour,
When the lad would take over, and set off quite willing,
Then, soon, he'd expire - it's a risky game, milling.
So, the young widow woman, now quite well-to-do,
Could determine her own life - one of the few.



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 - RICHARD BULL'S YOUTH & AGE

Notes on a miss-spent youth (and old age).

Maintenance, which is what I do at the Mill, is really for me just an extension of one of my hobbies – renovating, maintaining and riding motorcycles. The main difference is the size of the hammers and spanners.

Over 65 years ago I terrorized the neighbours with an auto-cycle I found in a shed. Then pushed home, about 5 miles up-hill, a BSA Bantam which I got



going for my 16th birthday. As I swept past the school gates at lunch time, after collecting it from the MOT station, I waved goodbye to those boring

nights sitting at home with Mum and Dad. Freedom and independence tasted so good.

As the years have passed my interest in bikes has changed but never waned. Getting out of the home and getting to work gradually gave way to an interest in old bikes. Very often the bikes I couldn't afford when I was younger, but more recently saving rusty heaps which are, in my opinion, as important as studying archaeological digs. They remind us of our engineering heritage and explain



Monet and Goyon
PHOTO: RICHARD BULL

why Britain was once a leader in engineering and manufacturing. Understanding our past, whether it is a tidemill or a Brough Superior can give us a clue as to what might happen in the future.

Richard Bull



(Richard's story brought my youth flooding back. I had a Triumph Tiger Cub when I was 16, but it soon died in a bad accident. When I was 22 I passed my bike driving test on a Honda 90, then graduated to a BSA Thunderbolt (650 twin) until the arrival of my first daughter and lack of funds meant a car was a greater priority than bikes, and my biking ended. Ed.)

(See also 'Funny Story' on the following page)

OTHER PHOTOS: WIKIPEDIA

IT'S A RESULT! RICHARD'S FAVOURITE - BANANA BREAD

- 125g (4½oz) butter
- 150g (5oz) caster sugar
- 5ml (1tsp) vanilla extract
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2-3 very ripe bananas, mashed
- 200g (7oz) Tide Mill Fine wholemeal flour
- 10g (2tsp) baking powder
- 1 tbsp Demerara sugar (optional)



PHOTO: PINTEREST

Melt the butter and sugar in a saucepan over medium heat. Remove from heat and add the vanilla extract and mashed bananas.

Mix well.

Add the egg and mix well.

Stir in the flour. Add some milk if the mixture is too stiff.

Spoon into the prepared tin and to give it a crunchy topping you could sprinkle with Demerara sugar.

Bake for 35 minutes, until a skewer comes out clean. Leave in the tin for a few minutes, then turn out onto a rack to cool.

Oven: 170°C/325°F/Fan 150°C/Gas Mark 3

Grease and line a 2lb loaf tin.

(Recipe from the Tide Mill Cookbook)

THE MILLER'S CHRONICLE

We made a concerted effort to grind as much grain as possible, in preparation for the Suffolk Show, and actually had a decent stock. However, those stocks are now depleted and so we are back to playing catch-up Charley. Rod, our apprentice miller, has now graduated to full miller status and is ready to run his own shifts which I feel he will make an excellent job of.

When we do demos visitors always ask questions. They are usually quite similar requests, i.e. "How long does the wheel turn for", etc. During a recent demo John Wood and I were asked the oddest

question either of us has ever been asked. The author Phillippa Gregory, who was visiting the demo to research a book, asked us how we would torture and kill a suspected witch using the water wheel. She is writing about 15th century witch hunts. We gave it some thought and answered her question fully. I think we impressed her with a surprising multitude of murderous and monstrous methods. It made a change!

Dan Tarrant-Willis

dantarrantwillis@yahoo.com

This year's production of our super flour to date is 2,674.7 kg.

(424¹/₅ stone Ed.)

Funny Story

I went to school on my Tiger Cub one summer's day, wearing a Paisley headband to keep the perspiration out of my eyes (helmets were not compulsory then, but hippy gear was). When I got there I naturally took my headband off and it was not until I got home that I found I had spent the whole day with a Paisley forehead, from the dye having run.

No-one had mentioned it. What a twerp! Nothing much changes!

Ed.



Our team of Dan Tarantino-Willis, John Wood, John Carrington, Brian Brackley, Anne and Nigel Barratt and Bob Spillett manned a stall as a guest Local Supplier of the East of England Co-operative Society in their marquee and helped to celebrate their 150th anniversary. The Co-op are a very good customer for the Tide Mill flour and were excellent hosts. This event was an excellent opportunity to publicise the Tide Mill and its flour to a wide cross-section of Suffolk people.

Scenes from the Suffolk Show



Picture Title:
"We know who does the work?"
 Here is Anne earning her living and Dan and Nigel earning a reputation.

PHOTOS: BOB SPILLETT



BOB GETS HIS DUES

Bob Spillett, Vice-Chair of Woodbridge Tide Mill Trustees since 2012 and hard-working volunteer, has stepped down from the VC role after a busy five years. Bob, who has been an intrinsic part of the effort to make the Mill commercially capable of economic independence, will continue to work with, and help co-ordinate, a busy roster of volunteers who look after the maintenance, show visitors around and keep

the Mill open through the season and sell and deliver most of the flour produced by the Mill.

Chairman of Trustees John Carrington presented an engraved glass bowl to Bob commenting that “The Trustees are most grateful to Bob for his hard work and dedication to the Mill without which it would not be in the strong position it is today. The fight to keep this symbolic town attraction robust, functioning and solvent continues however and I’m delighted that Bob will remain a Trustee and Volunteer”.

Bob is replaced as Vice-Chair to the Woodbridge Tide Mill Trustees by John Leming, a Structural Engineer and ex Junior Chairman at Woodbridge Rugby Club.

(Text précised from an original Press Release by Simon Ballard, who also produced the photos)



PHOTO: SIMON BALLARD

CELEBRITY VISITOR

A pleasure to welcome Philippa Gregory, established historian and writer, including an international No 1 best seller.

Philippa was an established historian and writer when she discovered her interest in the Tudor period and wrote the novel The Other Boleyn Girl, which was made into a TV drama and a major film.

Head Miller Dan Tarrant-Willis showed Philippa around the Tide Mill which, during the Elizabethan period, saw much change - not least being owned by Sir Thomas Seckford and family.

Read more about Philippa at: <http://www.philippagregory.com>

SCHOOL REPORTS by Wendy Reid

The week of the solstice saw two schools visit the Tide Mill. First came St John's CofE Primary from Ipswich. Thirty year 4 children really enjoyed watching the machinery work thanks to the endeavours of our excellent engineering team who were still fixing it up at the beginning of their visit. Here is a quote from their teacher, Mr Maples "Thought the trip was wonderful. Out of all the trips we have done this year, the kids said this was the best! Great day out."



Posing for the group photo



Here they are showing off the mouse hunting success.



Anticipating the start of milling

On Wednesday, Ipswich High School came with fifteen year 4 girls.



Waiting for the sack hoist to lift the grain



They loved feeling the flour as came down the chute from the mill stones.



Posing for the group photo

Diary Dates for 2018

Wheel Turning and Milling Demonstrations

Milling will take place in July at the following time/date:
11:00/5th; 11:00/6th; 12:30/7th; 14:00/8th; 14:30/9th; 15:00/10th;
16:00/11th; 14:30/23rd; 15:30/24th & 16:15/25th.

Milling demonstrations will take place in July at 11:00 on the 4th; at 16:30 on the 12th; at 11:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:30 & 14:30 on the 18th to 22nd respectively & 16:30 on the 26th.

Other Events

Folk East Festival: 17-19 August

Halloween: 31 October

Bank Holiday: 27 August

Quiz night: 16 November

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

Fireworks: 11 November (Possibly)

Shuck Festival: 29/30 September

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 by the middle of July 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 (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

MARITIME WOODBRIDGE 2018 September 8-9

An excellent programme of events is being organised by the Maritime Woodbridge Committee under the chairmanship of Paul Webster. These will span from the Tide Mill and Whistocks Place along the seawall to the bandstand and model yacht pond field with many visiting boats moored along the river.

For more information refer to www.maritimewoodbridge.org.

On both days the Tide Mill will be open with free entry. Help will be needed to meet and greet visitors and encourage them to give a donation. Also, the organisers of the event would be very grateful for any volunteers that can help for a few hours on the day.

If you can help at the Tide Mill please let Wendy Reid know via wendyjillreid@gmail.com;

and contact Bob Spillett robert.e.spillett@btinternet.com if you would like to help run the event on the day.

Bob Spillett

WORDWHEEL ANSWERS

Comences, commence, comes, mesne, semen, come, comm, meme, neem, seem, memo, meno, nome, omen, men's, some, morn's.