

THE TIDE MILL

LIVING MUSEUM

Patrons of the Tide Mill: Lord & Lady Framlingham

DROUGHT

At the time of writing this we had not had rain in Woodbridge for over fifty days, with no signs of any coming soon. This part of the east coast is renowned for being the driest part of England, but it is now getting ridiculous, and the gardens are suffering from 'sensible use' of water resources. Everywhere one looks, the green green grass of home, and elsewhere, is no longer green, but a delicate shade of dead.

Around many parts of the country water mill owners are wringing their hands and whistling through their fingers to call rain, worrying that their water sources may dry up and stop production.

But does this affect our Tide Mill?

No, of course not (unless you count the excess drying out of the building fabric, which occurs every summer, anyway and is not a terminal problem). No, the Tide Mill, in common with any other operating and producing tide mill (both of us, in fact), can continue to function normally because it does not rely on rain.

The tides are what replenish the millpond, and the tides are as reliable as the dawn and dusk, and just as predictable, so our millers can beaver away unconcerned and our customers can go home laden with all the Woodbridge Tide Mill flour they can carry.

And we hope they do just that.



VIEW FROM BENEATH THE BRIDGE

We seem to have a curtailed edition this month, through no fault of yours.

Probably we can partly blame the holiday season, or perhaps the hot weather, which tends to limit ones ability to be creative, or perhaps your editor is just getting tired and less inclined to chase and cajole the contributors. Or - dare we even hint it - he's running out of ideas or steam!

It is hoped that we will be full steam ahead next month.

We can't let it all fizzle out just yet, as your Ed. is already working on the puzzle page for the bumper Christmas Issue.

How sad - perhaps he should try to get out more.

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GET RID OF CLUTTER



I HAVE DECIDED TO SELL
THE VACUUM CLEANER.
ALL IT WAS DOING WAS
GATHERING DUST!

Tales of Mills (and Millers)

One of the fascinating things about being involved with the Tide Mill is its past. There have been several tide mills on this site, and taken together they illustrate nearly 850 years of English history. Back to Norman times, through the Plantagenet's, the 100 years' war with France, the Tudors, the dissolution of the monasteries, and the industrial revolution. The current mill was built in 1793, just as the steam engine was revolutionising the country, and which ultimately saw the death of the traditional 'green' mill. But Woodbridge Tide Mill kept working until 1957 when it was the last working tide mill in England. It is astonishing to think that it was built just as the steam engine was transforming industry, and still working when the first nuclear plants were already producing electricity.

Part of the fascination is in little details. The accompanying image is of a painting of Woodbridge from the Sutton side of the River Deben and is dated to 1770. I inherited this as a digital image from my predecessors (now unfortunately deceased) at the Tide Mill Trust, and have no idea of its origin, or even the date. It is certainly before 1793 as the mill in the forefront, while in the same position, is a different building. It's the only image I know of a mill before the one we look after today.

If anyone knows of the original picture, or of any really early pictures of the Mill I'd be interested to know more.

Nigel Barratt

(This article first appeared in the EADT in 2017)

WARDENS' DIGEST

This month has been unusual insofar as Saturdays have not been our busiest day of the week. Whether it was the football or hot weather I'm unsure. However, it's still hot and our usual visitor patterns have returned, possibly indicating football as a causal factor.

We have started selling more locally designed and produced products which are

going well and a direction I would like to see encouraged further as our visitors have an understandable expectation to buy local merchandise unique to Suffolk in the same ethos as our flour. The Milling Demos are proving as popular as ever and now even more so as they are almost dustless (see next item).

Dan Tarrant-Willis

THE MILLER'S CHRONICLE

Last year I wrote about our desire to install a dust extraction system in the mill. I am happy to report that we have successfully managed to design and develop a method that is doing the job. This has been achieved after many weeks of experimental activity and about the same amount of time spent by John Wood and myself scratching our heads. We solved it by using existing equipment (Henry vacuum cleaner) and a few odd-

This year's production of our super flour to date is 3,400.4kg.

(539 $\frac{1}{3}$ stone Ed.)



shaped inexpensive pipe connectors. It does a remarkably good job. I estimate that its extracting about 90% of the flour dust created during the milling process. This is a great relief and atmospheric improvement as the dust previously let loose in the mill was unpleasant to be breathing in and laborious to 'hoover' up after every milling session. It reminded me of the old adage 'clean as you go'.

Dan Tarrant-Willis

dantarrantwillis@yahoo.com

ENGINEERING GAZETTE

The Wallower Story Continued...

After our original Wallower problem last month, there was a slight worry that the vertical shaft may have possibly turned in the wallower gear wheel.

Close examination showed that the shaft had indeed turned slightly. The bottom of the vertical shaft is octagonal and fits into an octagonal hole on the wallower. However there is quite a space between the two faces which was originally filled with pieces of wooden packing. This packing has slowly deteriorated allowing the shaft to turn slightly. At some stage larger spacers have



PHOTO: Ed.

been fitted at random to stop the possibility of further turning.

We have added more spacers to back up the security.

At the end of the season we will investigate further.

John Wood

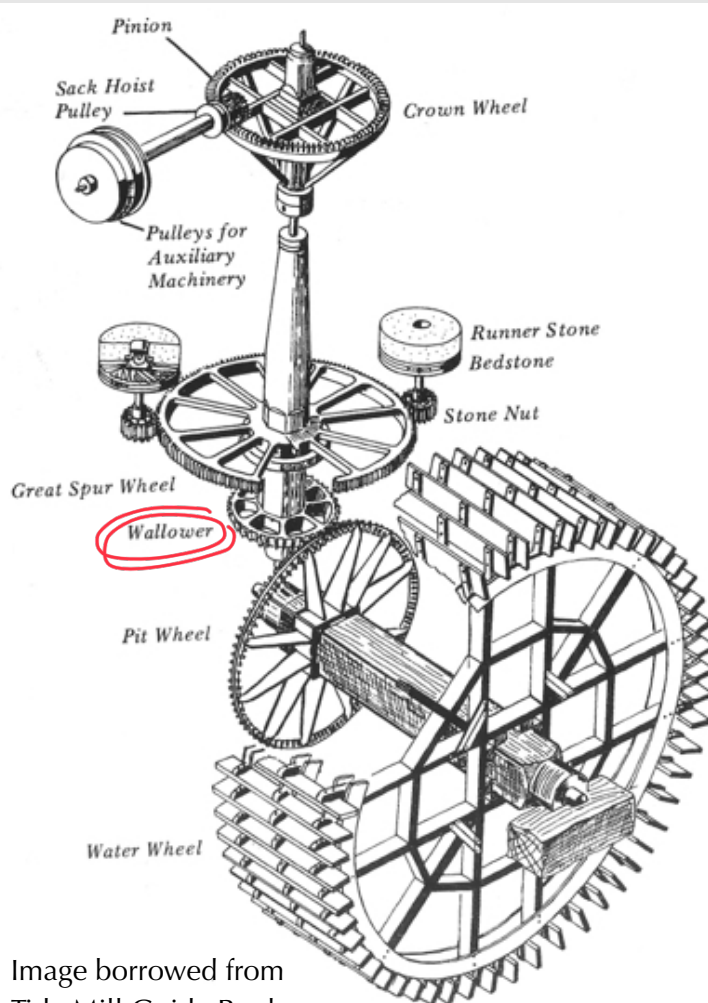


Image borrowed from
Tide Mill Guide Book

BUSKER'S CORNER

The sign, "Help Wanted!" was put on the door,
When helpers we wanted some more,
But, instead of some joining our throng,
They rushed in and asked us, "What's wrong?!"



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.

25=average;
35=good;
50=v.good
Answers on last page.



THE STORY BEHIND - FRASER HALE, AN ACCIDENTAL TOURIST

As a young man I was part of a "Fast Track" programme with a large refrigeration engineering firm. The company sent me to university for five years. At the end of the programme, and in return for their investment in me, I had to serve a year's tour of duty on their 'Global Response Team'. This meant that I was part of a group of young, single, graduate engineers that could be called upon at short notice to go anywhere that the firm's products needed support. During the first few months I visited China, Barbados, South America, Saudi Arabia, and Bristol. Tasks ranged from troubleshooting an electronic environmental control system - the work of a couple of days, to managing the installation of a complete chilled loading dock - 6 weeks on location. It was a wonderful learning opportunity, if sometimes challenging and scary, and mostly exciting and fun.

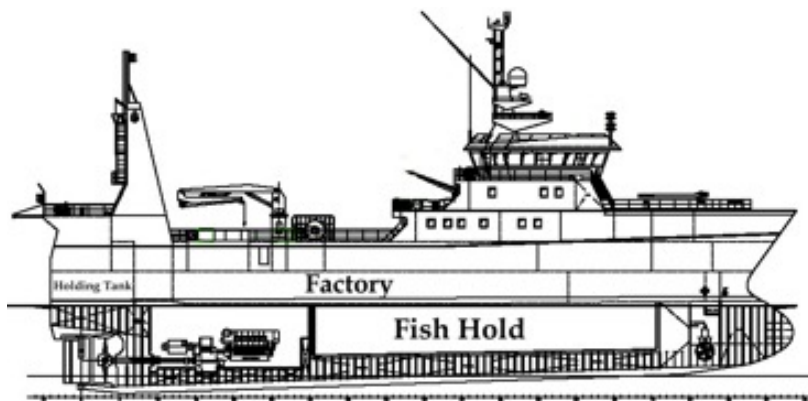
One day, however, I received instructions to fly to a place called Alesund in Norway.



Alesund

PHOTO: telegraph.co.uk

Alesund was a major fishing centre, and my job on this trip was to commission a replacement refrigeration compressor on a trawler. The job went smoothly, and after two days I was ready to sign off on the installation. A very nice gentleman from Lloyds came aboard to witness the hand-over. He had with him a message from my office in England - change of plan, the insurance company wanted an engineer to accompany the new compressor on two weeks of sea trials! I had travelled to Alesund expecting to be there no more than three days. I had one change of clothes and a toothbrush. The trawler sailed round Iceland.



I have never been so cold and so bored in all my life. None of the crew spoke more than a few words of English, and the only thing I had to read were the technical documents for the compressor installation. For fifteen days all I had to eat was fish and potato broth (except for breakfast, when we had porridge, which tasted of fish). All the way out, and all the way back the compressor never missed a beat. As soon as I was back in Alesund I bought some clean clothes - the concierge at the hotel offered to have my old ones burned - and headed for the airport. If life has taught me anything, it's to take the rough with the smooth.

Fraser Hale

IT'S A RESULT!:

FRASER HALE'S GOLDEN DUMPLINGS

Ingredients (serves 4)

120 gms Tide Mill Traditional Flour
1.5 tspns Baking Powder
60 gms beef or vegetable suet
Cold water to mix
Two cloves of garlic, very finely chopped
1 tspn medium chilli powder
1 tspn Paprika
1 tspn Mixed Herbs
Salt and Pepper to taste

Method

Sieve the flour and baking powder into a bowl.
Add the suet and all the other dry ingredients, including the garlic.



PHOTO: STAYATHOMEMUM.COM

Mix thoroughly, slowly adding water until you get a pliable, not too sticky, dough.

With floured hands divided the mixture into eight portions and roll into balls.

I float these on top of a chicken casserole twenty minutes before the end of the cooking time in a 180OC oven. Leave the dish uncovered for this time. The dough should roughly double in size with the tops of the dumplings becoming lightly crusty. Serve hot with the casserole. The spices give these dumplings a real zing, while the trad flour makes them robust and satisfying.

Other Tide Mills

Application Form

Your help will be appreciated!

Diary Dates for 2018

Milling Demonstrations and Wheel Turning

Wheel Turning will take place on most days in August, at various times to suit the tides, of course, which you will find at the link below.

Other Events

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 August please.

Go to [Wikipedia](#) for more

ARCHIVIST'S REVIEW

We can blame jury duty for the absence of Archivist's Review in this issue.

WORDWHEEL ANSWERS

[illegible]