

WOODBIDGE

TIDE MILL MUSEUM[®]

Honorary
Tide Mill
President:
Nigel Barratt

Patrons of the
Tide Mill:
Lord & Lady
Framlingham

Celebrating 850 years



Features This Month:
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We Finish Walking Around Woodbridge p4
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Lockdown Activities p6
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www.woodbridgetidemill.org.uk



EDITORIAL

We are all living in peculiar times, and very unsettling times for some. This is not the place for lectures about staying at home or washing your hands (by the way, it only takes twenty seconds - you only have to kill the virus, not stay for the funeral), so we have devoted the newsletter this month to reminding you all to check out the website, which our team have been busily filling with things to keep you busy - and to keep your kids busy.

There is still some activity at the Tide Mill, despite the need to cease flour production, because the machinery has to be operated for a brief period every day, otherwise the mill-wheel becomes water-logged on the lower side and then runs unevenly, because of the extra weight. In extreme circumstances this can cause the wheel to become loose and the additional stresses can even damage the main drive shaft. It is thought that this may have contributed to the last big damage to the drive shaft, the result of which can be seen on the Pit Floor, next time you visit.

Ed.

WTMeditor@gmx.com

WHAT IS THIS, AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

Answer on last page



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Hello Friends and friends, I hope that you and your families are all safe. Those who are key-workers – thank you for your dedication and for keeping us all going at this challenging time.

The Tide Mill is strangely quiet for this time of year when it should be buzzing with visitors in the unseasonal April sunshine.

This is normally a time when we generate much-needed income for the Charity to maintain the Mill.

In the spirit of self-sufficiency, we are not resting on our laurels, however, but taking the following initiatives: -

- We have built a Lockdown Activities page on our website <https://woodbridgetidemill.org.uk/lockdown-activities/> where we are posting children's activities, recipes and appeals to help those of us stuck at home

- Our Curator: Fraser Hale is asking for oral donations to our museum collection where, if you have them, you record your memories and impressions of Woodbridge and of the Tide Mill for us. Instructions are on the website <https://woodbridgetidemill.org.uk/2020/04/12/oral-history-project-launch/> please contribute if you can

- Finally we were delighted with the gift of eleven elegant original and numbered dry point prints of the Mill by Geoffrey Richardson (1928-2014) a Woodbridge resident artist. The Mill is offering these for sale exclusively to Friends for £30 each on a first-come-first-served basis. Prints unsold by 5pm on 24th April will be offered for sale more widely. Purchasing a print will help the Mill through, were it not for Covid-19, what would have been one of its busiest revenue-generating periods. Please see below... One day the Mill will reopen, we look forward to that time and, in the meantime, wish all Friends the very best and thank you for supporting Woodbridge Tide Mill Museum.

John Carrington
Chair, Woodbridge Tide Mill Charitable Trust

CONTACT US

Here are live links to send emails to the contacts needed for those readers who want to contribute to the life of Woodbridge Tide Mill by volunteering for one or more of the various interesting, and fun, jobs that need doing...

If you want to put something in the newsletter (or comment on it):

[Ed.](#)

If you want to be a Guide:

[Wendy](#)

If you want to be a Miller:

[Dan](#)

If you want to be a Flour Bagger:

[Brian](#)

If you want to be a Warden:

[Dan](#)

If you want to be an Engineer:

[John W](#)

If you want to be an Leafleteer:

[John W](#)

If you want to help with Marketing:

[Simon](#)

If you want to help with something we have not thought of:

[Dan](#)

If you would like to contribute to our Collection or Archive:

[Fraser](#)

If you want to contact our Chair of Trustees:

[John C](#)

If you want to be a Friend of Woodbridge Tide Mill:

[Be A Friend](#)

KEEP YOUR NERVE!



IT'S NOT EASY TO WORK FOR A NERVOUS BOSS. ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE THE REASON HE IS NERVOUS!



CURATOR'S CORUSCATIONS

By Fraser Hale

It was ever thus...

We are living in curious, not to say testing, but not unprecedented times. Recent news of 'panic' buying, hoarding, and subsequent shortages brought me to thinking about similar circumstances around the time that



our Tide Mill was rebuilt.

The tail end of the eighteenth century was a turbulent time in Europe. The French Revolution, and subsequent wars, drew many nations into unwanted conflicts that they could ill afford. On top of that the 1790's produced a string of poor harvests all over the globe. Export embargoes and conflicted borders and sea routes made the transport of grain difficult and dangerous. In England the price of wheat,

and consequently of flour, began to rise.

In the 1790's an average working-class family was spending around three quarters of its income on food; of this, two thirds was spent solely on bread. That's around half of a household's income being spent on bread alone! Today the average household income is approximately £30,000. If an average household still had to commit half their income to bread, they'd be spending five hundred and seventy-five pounds per week on the purchase of this staple of their diet.

With bread consuming such a large proportion of their income, it is easy to understand why any fluctuation in its price had such a vexing interest for the working class. Between 1793 and 1796 the price of wheat rose by almost 40%! The price of flour and bread followed a similar trajectory.

Along with a genuine shortage of grain there was a widespread, and not ill-founded, belief that farmers, corn traders and millers were all taking advantage of the situation to line their own pockets. Little wonder, then, that by 1795 many people's frustration overflowed into violence. During 1795 more than two dozen riots associated with bread prices and scarcity of flour were recorded across England. East Anglia hosted its fair

share of these with riotous assemblies being recorded in Norwich, Blakeney, Sudbury, Sutton and Ely.

William Pitt's rattled government dealt swiftly and harshly with rioters. After all, you only had to look across the Channel to see what could happen if you let a few hungry peasants get out of hand. In a move, though, that teaches us that governments have always been out of touch with the rest of their country, and that it is impossible to learn from the mistakes of others, Pitt excelled himself. In response to complaints received from Privy Councils all over England that their people could not afford bread, Pitt, picking up the baton of insouciance from Marie Antionette, advised them to eat meat! It was ever thus...



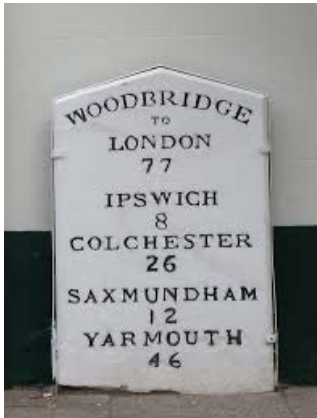
You will recall that last month we left you looking at St John's Church. This month we continue our walk following the **Short History and Guide to Woodbridge** written by Mike Weaver. We have turned away from the church and are looking behind it.



1 Lockwood, one of the town's surveyors, was responsible for paving and relaying the surface of many of the town's streets. Alfred Lockwood, his son, built St. John's Church. Walk down the hill to the Round House which narrowly escaped destruction from the Zeppelin bombs.



2 1850. Cross over the street, taking special care at this rather dangerous junction, and walk on down New Street. The new library is [was] on your left. Continue through the small lane ahead to the Thoroughfare, noticing the interesting plaster heads over the doorways on your right. Turn right, passing an old milestone set against the front of the shop. The Thoroughfare in both directions is full of elegant and interesting buildings.



3 townsfolk and inspired by one of the members of the Doric Freemason Lodge, George Thompson, who converted part of Doric Lodge to a large meeting hall for the Freemasons in 1827. He then built and occupied Doric Cottage next door; his mason's mark can still be seen. Notice also the large red brick finial on the garden wall opposite. Thompson's brother occupied Ivy Lodge, an early 17th century structure and added its lovely trellis balcony and bay windows. The lane was cut through the original gardens to make access from the Thoroughfare to the quays more convenient. The cottages at the lower end of the lane were built later.



4 the bottom, turn right into Quayside and walk on to the

first opening on the left. On the corner is the old "Boat Inn", now a private residence. This and the adjacent buildings date from the 16th century. The inn was constructed in 1530.



5

Cross the railway line and make your way to the Tide Mill, in many ways the symbol of Woodbridge and the Deben. It was built in the 1790s and has been a source of great interest to visitors ever since and the subject of countless paintings and drawings. It is open to the public during the summer and for a modest fee you can look around, climb to the first and second floors, examine the machinery and enjoy the fine views of the river.

A Mill is said to have stood on this spot since before 1170 and was operated by the Black Canons during the middle ages. After the dissolution of the Priory in 1536 it passed to Henry VIII and later Elizabeth I owned it for a while. It operated as a tide mill, the last working mill of its kind, until 1957, when the main shaft broke and for ten years it decayed and rotted until a benefactor came forward, purchased it and set up a trust fund to save it; a remarkable gesture indeed by Mrs. R.T. Gardner of Wickhambrook. A huge restoration project was carried out; the foundations were stabilised and the wooden framework repaired and strengthened. The seventy year old corrugated iron sheeting was stripped off and replaced by the weatherboarding you can see today. The machinery was cleaned and restored to working order and a new water-wheel installed in May 1976. The town of Woodbridge is fortunate to have this fascinating relic of the high Industrial Revolution.



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Tide Mill Print has helped the Tide Mill

We were delighted recently to unearth twelve elegant limited-edition prints of the Tide Mill by Geoffrey Richardson (1928-2014), a Woodbridge resident artist whose biography is shown alongside. The prints were generously gifted to the Museum by the family of the artist.

The Tide Mill has managed to sell them in an exclusive offer to Friends of the Tide Mill, at a price of £30 each on a first-come-first-served basis. This was in order to help the Mill through what, were it not for Covid-19, would have been one of its busiest revenue-generating periods.

Although they are prints, these pictures were not 'mass produced' and no two are exactly alike. One of the techniques in which Geoff Richardson excelled was drypoint. Drypoint involves making fine cuts in a metal plate, most commonly copper in Geoff's time, with a fine stylus. The thing that sets drypoint apart from engraving is that, as well as the gouges that engraving produces, and that hold ink when it comes to printing, drypoint produces raised burrs on the plate. These burrs lend a subtlety to drypoint that is not usually achieved with normal engraving. The burrs, however, are extremely delicate and every stage of the printing process must be performed extremely carefully in order to preserve them. Once the plate has been inked and wiped, it is run through an etching press with a sheet of damp paper. Moistened heavyweight paper helps to cushion the burrs from the compression of the press - this is why the prints have been produced on heavy watercolour paper. Despite all this care, the burrs quickly wear and distort - each impression is slightly different from the



last and the next; after only a few impressions (thirty, in this case) the condition of the plate is such that the quality of the print is no longer acceptable.

You can be assured that every penny raised will go towards the work of the charity in preserving and developing the Tide Mill and the Museum.

RICHARDSON, Geoffrey Philip 1928 - 2014

Geoffrey Philip Richardson, was born at Woodbridge, Suffolk on 15 April 1928, only child of Philip John Richardson (16 October 1888-8 February 1978), a cabinet maker, and his wife Marion Eliza née Runacres (12 October 1896-7 May 1992), who married at Woodbridge in 1925 and in 1939 were living at 21 Barrack Road, Woodbridge. Educated at Woodbridge Elementary School and studied at Ipswich School of Art 1940-1944, under Archibald Ward and Alan Bellis. Landscape artist in oil, watercolour, drypoint, etching and a printmaker, mostly of Suffolk scenes, and a member of the Ipswich Art Club from 1962 exhibiting from 21 Old Barrack Road, Woodbridge in 1977, 'Shingle Street', in 1979 three paintings 'Old Pump, Woodbridge', 'Tide Mill' and 'Theatre Street, Woodbridge' and in 1980 'Martlesham Creek', 'Kyson 2' and 'Suffolk Barn'. He also exhibited at Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colour; the National Society of Painters; the Royal Academy Summer Exhibitions and had solo exhibitions at the Haste Gallery, Ipswich and Deben Gallery, Woodbridge and mixed shows at various other venues. In 2012 he was living at 21 Jubilee House, Seckford Alms Houses, Seckford Street, Woodbridge and where he died on 20 September 2014.

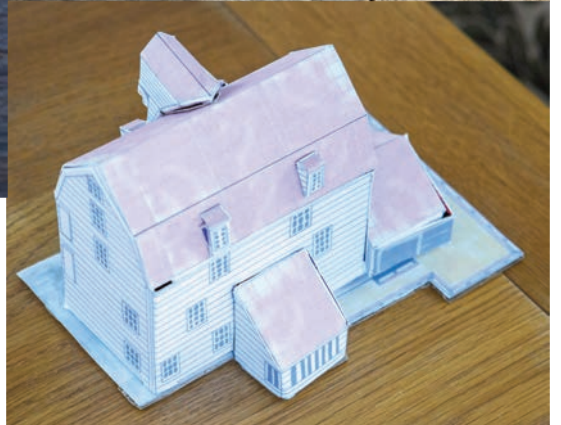
BUSKER'S CORNER

Mist. Early. Still. Move. Flow. Rise. Ripple. Surge. Glide. Stream.
Steady. Meander. Swirl. Slow. Pause. Stay. Bide. Slack. Cease. Drift.
Sedate. Abate. Ebb. Wane. Babble. Lessen. Subside. Dwindle. Mud. Waders.

Penstock. Trickle. Sluice. Outflow. Stream. Burst. Torrent. Flume. Cascade. Disembogue.
Wheel. Paddle. Inch. Turn. Pivot. Rotate. Gyrate. Sweep. Engage. Enmesh.
Baulk. Governor. Pit. Wallower. Shaft. Toil. Travail. Moil. Yakka. Function.

Hoist. Sack. Store. Grain. Chute. Hopper. Slipper. Damsel. Eye. Stones.
Flour. Duct. Sacks. Bags. Deliver. Shelves. Stack. Buy. Purchase. Acquire.
Home. Kitchen. Cookhouse. Galley. Bakery. Create. Prepare. Concoct. Savour. Relish.

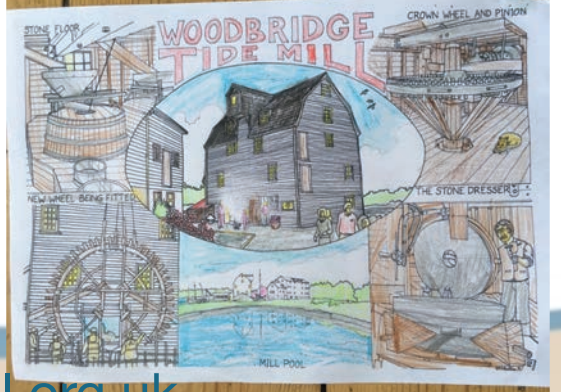
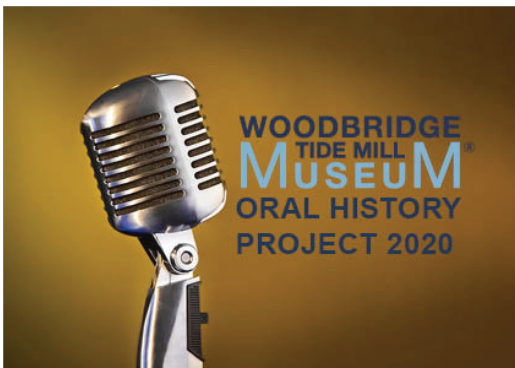




LOCKDOWN ACTIVITIES & NEWS ON WEBSITE

To repeat the words of our Chair, given on page 2, we have built a Lockdown Activities page on our website <https://woodbridgetidemill.org.uk/lockdown-activities/> where we are posting children’s activities, recipes and appeals to help those of us stuck at home. You can see, from these photographs, provided by Simon Ballard, that a great deal of activity has occurred already - which will not be commented upon, except to say we know there are kids out there that can do better.

Also, Fraser Hale, our Curator is asking for oral donations to our museum collection where, if you have them, you record your memories and impressions of Woodbridge and of the Tide Mill for us. Instructions are on the website <https://woodbridgetidemill.org.uk/2020/04/12/oral-history-project-launch/> please contribute if you can.



(Continued from page 4)

How does a tide mill work? Behind the mill stands a pond and the rising tide is trapped or impounded in it. When the tide has fallen and cleared the mill race beneath the wheel, the miller releases the water which gushes out turning the water-wheel first breast-shot [*not now*] and later under-shot. Four pairs of French burr stones ground corn, maize or even peas and beans for cattle feed. The miller's hours of work were/are dictated by the tides and often in the past the stillness of the night was broken by the sounds and vibrations of a busy working mill.

If you have time to look around the mill you will not be disappointed. It is manned by volunteers, all "friends" of the mill and they are always pleased to answer your questions and point out the main features of interest. Next to the mill stands the derelict granary [*since turned into living accommodation*]; its condition is not unlike that of the mill itself before restoration. Woodbridge Art Club have salvaged one small corner and hold regular exhibitions there.

Walk back along the quay towards the railway station. From the corner of Bass' Dock, for hundreds of years, a ferry service connected Woodbridge with Sutton. A High Court writ prevented the town council from closing the ferry in 1951 and in the following year the council gave a written undertaking to operate it "at all reasonable times". [*Hopefully to be seen before long*]

At the railway station you have completed the tour of the town. For those who have the energy, however, there is a pleasant river walk to Kyson Point. The river which carried the Saxon and Viking invaders and made Woodbridge a thriving commercial port from Tudor times is now the centre of a new leisure industry and popular venue for the boating fraternity. **7**



Index to Images (Old Names Used)

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Lockwood's Castle | Pulham Rocks |
| 2 | Roundhouse | Gymphobics.co.uk |
| 3 | Milepost | Geograph.org.uk |
| 4 | Doric Place | Tripadvisor.co.uk |
| 5 | Boat Inn | Closedpubs.co.uk |
| 6 | Tide Mill | Woodbridge Tide Mill |
| 7 | Kyson Point (from south) | Suffolkimages.com |

THE MILLER'S CHRONICLE

By Dan Tarrant-Willis

dantarrantwillis@yahoo.com

We had plans to continue milling during this pandemic and had optimistically developed a strategy to do so. However when the national lockdown was announced we decided to stop all activity at the Tide Mill and temporarily stand down.

These are unprecedented times and being locked down is the only appropriate action to protect our volunteers and our community. Also from a wider perspective being consistent with national government policy. We are helping by being seen and doing the right thing to limit the spread of Covid 19.

Our millers are all well and happily getting around to various DIY activity in our



PHOTO: SERGIO ARZE, UNSPLASH

homes. Rod is still in Australia yet is doing well. We all look forward to a return to our milling. Hopefully in the near future.

Please be assured that the Wheel is being kept in perfect balance and we will be ready to hit the floor running [*not literally, I hope. Ed.*] when this lockdown comes to an end.





NEW(ISH) FACE AT THE MILL

Hello, my name is Ian Gray and I am a volunteer at the Tide Mill and here is a little bit about myself.

I have spent the majority of my professional career working within local authorities designing, procuring and managing local transport schemes and software applications. This has involved working closely with local

communities across Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. For the last few years I worked for a software house as a project manager implementing public transport databases, journey planning systems and mobile applications.

For the last year or so I have been volunteering at the Woodbridge Tide Mill, initially as a bagger, and then as a miller. I am now one of the lead millers, and in the last few weeks I have taken on the role of lead bagger, and will be co-ordinating both retail and wholesale flour sales to our customers. I am interested in understanding business process and always look for ways in which they can be improved. Since volunteering at the mill, I have designed and implemented a milling production recording system, a stock monitoring system and I am now working on a sales monitoring system for our flour. These will be used alongside existing records to create primary sources for those people who are interested in the activities of the Mill in future generations. In addition to this, in March I have also become a Trustee of the Woodbridge Tide Mill Charitable Trust and look forward to working with the other Trustees as soon as the current situation allows.

The volunteers at the Mill are the current custodians of its history, and if you are interested in becoming a friend and giving a donation, or actively joining in, please have a look at the types of roles which are available <https://woodbridgetidemill.org.uk/be-a-friend/>

There is always plenty to do, the volunteer teams are small and friendly, so if this interests you please get in touch <https://woodbridgetidemill.org.uk/contact/>

Don't forget that the best way to ensure that you continue to receive this newsletter (regardless of all the other benefits) is to keep up your membership of

The Friends of Woodbridge Tide Mill.

If you are not already a member, but would like to be one, use this link:

[Be A Friend](https://woodbridgetidemill.org.uk/be-a-friend/)

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

WHAT IS IT? ANSWER

This is a redundant grain shute. Over the years the mill has been reorganised to deal with different requirements. Other redundant shutes can be found around the mill.



PURPOSE: The purpose of this newsletter is to support and advance the objectives of the Trustees of Woodbridge Tide Mill. The newsletter provides all supporters a forum of their own, together with information about current and future events and it is hoped it will foster a sense of common interest and shared identity, encourage increased participation and entertain.

EDITORIAL POLICY: The editor has full editorial responsibility for the newsletter. Articles that appear and views expressed are not the official position of the Trustees on any subject, unless specifically noted as such. Items submitted for inclusion may be edited for grammar, style and/or space requirements and contributors wishing to be alerted of any changes prior to publication must notify the editor at the time of submission.

IMAGES: Unattributed images are by the article author or Ed.

DISCLAIMER: The p2 Glenn Miller gag cartoon is not making a comment about any real helpers at WTM.

