

Honorary
Tide Mill
President:
Nigel Barratt

WOODBIDGE TIDE MILL MUSEUM®

Celebrating 850 years

Patrons of the
Tide Mill:
Lord & Lady
Framlingham

Features This Month:
Digital Education
Birds of the Tide Mill
Wendings Ends

p3
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p6

PHOTO: MIKE WHITBY



www.woodbridgetidemill.org.uk



EDITORIAL

Health & Safety

We hear a lot about the apparently stupid rules that are imposed on us in the interests of 'health and safety', and some of them can be pretty stupid at worst and over-cautious at best. But it is the general experience of your editor, from his past life in the construction industry, that many - even most - of the stupid rules are actually misapplication of otherwise sensible precautions that should be taken. It was his experience that the actual officers of the Health and Safety Executive were usually level-headed and reasonable people and the rules they devised could not often be criticised by anyone with a brain. Those rules were often simple to implement, but the trouble usually came from the application of the rules by inexperienced people who were afraid of being accused of causing accidents, or not preventing them, and even of consequently getting sued.

However, there are occasions when the strictest of rules must be applied, for the protection of the majority. Which is why we have had to shut down the Tide Mill - to protect the volunteers and employees and the visitors. Nobody wants it, but needs must.

Just think how much you will all enjoy flocking back in pre-booked droves!

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

by John Carrington

We restarted milling from the middle of May. A great deal of effort was spent making sure the processes were fully compliant with all the guidance associated with working whilst the pandemic exists. The small team of younger volunteers led by Dan Tarrant-Willis and Ian Gray have done a great job. Two tonnes of grain has been milled to date and the resulting flour distributed to a range of our outlets.

The major external redecoration of the Tide Mill commenced in mid May too and is now complete. The result has drawn a lot of positive comment. My thanks to Nigel Barratt and Tim Buxbaum for overseeing this.

We were successful in winning a grant from Historic England. The grants are aimed, among other things, at helping charities like ours to reach out whilst the sector is closed by the pandemic. We will use our grant to build digital material for schools based on the material we have created for school visits that cannot at present take place. The ability to use the internet to learn about the Mill and all it represents will be good for schools and for others who cannot visit. Thanks must go to Fraser Hale our Curator for leading this exciting project.

And finally, we plan to reopen the Mill to visitors on 4 July. Initially the Mill will open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. A lot of work has been done to ensure visitors and staff are safe. Visitor numbers will be limited to pre-booked timed ticketing which will be accessible via our website. There will be no admission for those who have not pre-booked.

I look forward to seeing you again, safely distanced, at our wonderful Mill.

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](#)

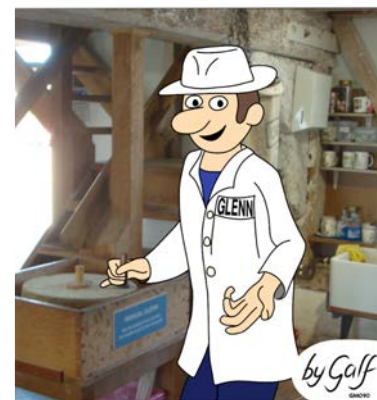
If you want to contact our Chair of Trustees:

[John C](#)

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

[Be A Friend](#)

OPTIMISM



PEOPLE ASK ME IF I'M OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE TIDE MILL. I TELL THEM, 'I HOPE SO'.

CURATORS CORUSCATIONS

By Fraser Hale

Over the past two years the Tide Mill has developed a strong schools' programme linked to the National Curriculum designed to engage students in the history, technology and environment of the Mill.

Children who visit the Tide Mill as part of school groups are powerful advocates for the museum and often return with their families. Engaging schools with the heritage and technology of the Tide Mill contributes significantly to the Museum's fulfilment of its constitutional aims in the broadest sense, and supports its plans for financial and operational resilience and sustainability.

Covid-19 has put an end to school visits to the Museum for the foreseeable future.

This, in turn, has compromised the Museum's ability to educate and engage some of our most important visitors. The museum plans to address this by creating new, and adapting existing, educational and interpretation material and making it available more widely using digital platforms.

Making the museum a virtual destination will help to ensure that we continue to serve the community now and into the future, especially when people are unable to visit the museum.

We are delighted, therefore, to have been awarded a generous grant by Historic England from its Emergency Response Resilience Fund. This money will allow the Tide Mill to offer online access to the museum's educational material, archive and exhibits to schoolteachers, pupils and the general public. The new material will include video (on demand and live streams) audio files and podcasts, illustrations, photos, art, maps, and digital printable resources including lesson plans.

Themes will include the social history of the Tide Mill; flour production from 'soil to sandwich'; environmental change, diversity and sustainability; the natural history of the River Deben; physical forces; types of energy and energy transfer, and the effects and uses of machines.

New material will be announced on the Tide Mill website, and through social media, as it is launched. We expect to start releasing the material in the next two -three weeks, so please keep in touch via our social media channels.

Supported by Historic England.



Historic England

ERRATA

In last month's newsletter, the roof of the Tide Mill was referred to as a 'hipped roof', in error.

In fact, the roof is a Gambrel Roof, as can be seen in the diagrams on the right.

To quote Wikipedia: "A **gambrel** or **gambrel roof** is a usually symmetrical two-sided **roof** with two slopes on each side. (The usual architectural term in eighteenth-century England and North America was "Dutch **roof**".) The upper slope is positioned at a shallow angle, while the lower slope is steep."

Sloped roof shapes

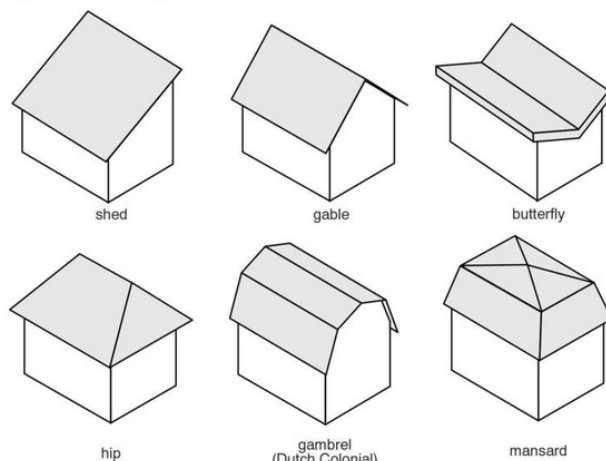


IMAGE: GOOGLE.COM.HK



The Birds of Woodbridge Tide Mill

With lockdown still in full swing there is understandably a dearth of interesting copy for inclusion in this newsletter, so we are taking the opportunity of reminding you that, whilst you are unable to visit inside the Tide Mill, you are perfectly welcome to sit outside and enjoy the River Deben.

And one of the joys of watching the river is watching the birds thereupon. You may already be aware that a pamphlet is available to Tide Mill visitors comprising a checklist of the birds most likely to be seen.

Here is a note of the birds shown on that checklist, which you may like to print and take down to the river with you.

AVOCET

(L 42–46cm)

☐


GREY HERON

(L 90–95cm)

☐

BLACK-HEADED GULL

(L 35–39cm)

☐


LITTLE EGRET

(L 55–65cm)

☐

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

(L 37–42cm)

☐


OYSTERCATCHER

(L 39–44cm)

☐

CANADA GOOSE

(L 90–100cm)

☐


REDSHANK

(L 24–27cm)

☐

CORMORANT

(L 77–94cm)

☐


SHELDUCK

(L 56–68cm)

☐

COMMON TERN

(L 34–37cm)

☐


TURNSTONE

(L 21–24cm)

☐

CURLEW

(L 50–60cm)

☐


DUNLIN

(L 17–21cm)

☐


WIDGEON

(L 42–50cm)

☐

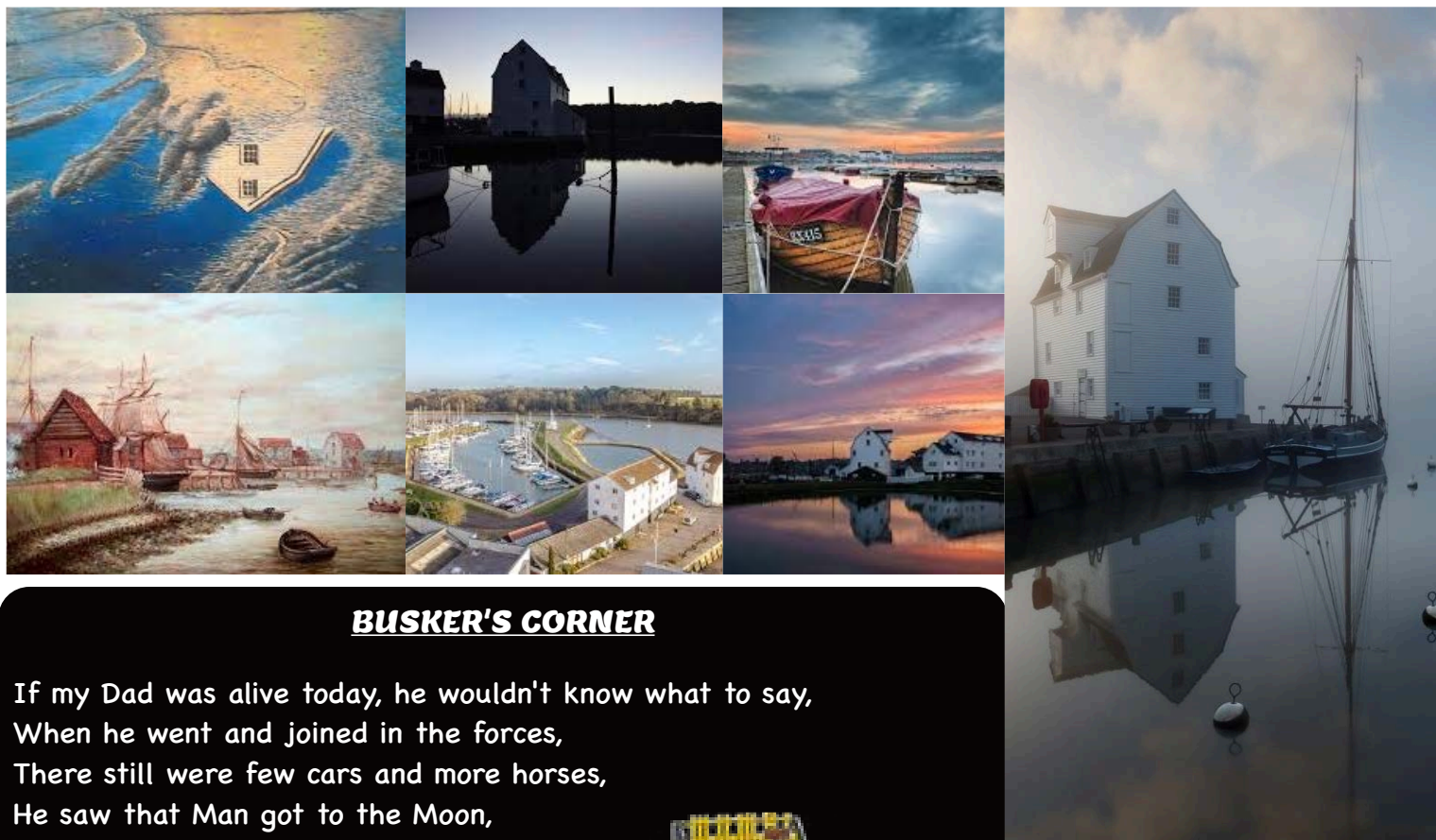

Don't forget that the best way to ensure that you
continue to receive this newsletter
(regardless of all the other benefits)
is to keep up your membership of
The Friends of Woodbridge Tide Mill.

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

[Be A Friend](#)

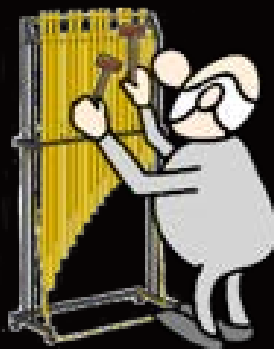
Hereunder a few images
of Woodbridge Tide Mill,
old and new, that can be
attributed to various
sources, including
(Clockwise from top left):

Alan Williams
Flickr
Owen Clarke
Richard Ferris
Gill Moon
Savills



BUSKER'S CORNER

If my Dad was alive today, he wouldn't know what to say,
When he went and joined in the forces,
There still were few cars and more horses,
He saw that Man got to the Moon,
But assumed they would go again soon,
He saw that we all had computers,
But just couldn't imagine their futures,
Netflix on telly would just blow his mind,
And a phone in his pocket? Whatever kind?
Google for info, was one strange idea,
And next day delivery of orders, how queer!
But he'd be content here in the Tide Mill,
Though his eyes may even be wide still,
'Cos' the Tide Mill's not changed and is still making flour,



**WHAT IS THIS, AND
WHAT DOES IT DO?**
Answer on last page



WENDINGS

By Wendy Reid

When I was 11 my father bought a boat.....

We left Boulogne on the next tide and sailed across the Channel, turned North up the coast of Kent and finally to Essex, our chosen destination. Everyone had got used to the boat by now and we hoped for no more adventures on this homeward run.

We hoped... but not necessarily did we get.

Thick fog came not long after we left port. We had no radar and were in one of the busiest, if not the actual busiest shipping lane in the world. Although this was before the days of container ships there were many other craft, all of them considerably larger than us and no doubt fully equipped with safety gear; if you are all wood, for example, you need a radar reflector. Of course, we didn't have one.

Now I loved my father dearly; he was kind, generous and very funny but he did have a cavalier attitude to safety. A case in point, when he was Master of the *Cutty Sark* and the society stipulated that the riggers should wear harnesses he was incensed by such a namby-pamby ruling.

Back to the fog and staring into the grey depths for hour upon hour. Eventually, despite what is there or isn't there, you 'see' large vessels looming down on you. So you need a break but the desire to keep looking is strong. We sounded our fog horn regularly; we kept our fingers crossed. This was definitely the scariest bit but we made it without a close call. I think! If there had been a close call my father would not have mentioned it.

I guess we crossed as quickly as we could and headed north up the English coast for the River Colne. I awoke to a beautiful day with the fog gone and a fair wind. Eventually we entered the spot where the River Blackwater and Colne meet the sea. It was engine only from now on as the coastal waters are busy with little yachts both moving and moored up.

Now here's the tricky bit; to get to St Osyth creek you first have to sail past Brightlingsea and all the moored vessels which that entails. We were a large boat for the narrow channel. And, we had a whacking great bowsprit sticking out the front. To add to the difficulty, one could not see over the bow from the wheelhouse. Much shouting was going on as we negotiated the river. I have often dwelt on the fate of the boat we smacked in the middle of its main mast with our bowsprit, like a dart heading for a bullseye, there was no diverting us from our unintended target. A great cloud of dust flew up from the sorry little boat's mast. Guilty looks passed amongst us. "It must have been rotten," said my father.

Onwards we went heading for the top of St Osyth creek where the channel ends at the mill pond, our draft being nearly 9 feet, it was indeed where our resting place had to be.

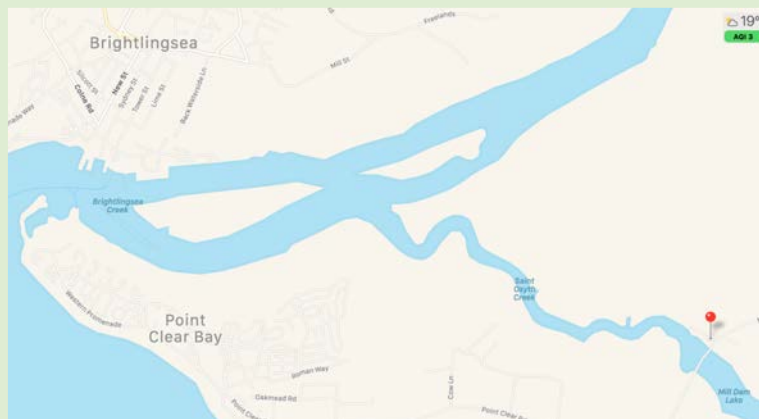
We could only get there on the top of a spring tide. Just in time, as the tide turned, we found our berth. We all took a breather after we had moored up. We had found our home.

Our berth was parallel to the most wonderful derelict building, which was to become a playground for me for the next two years. The old tide mill is, sadly, no more; it was pulled down in 1963 but gave me many hours of fantasy and fuel for my imagination. How I would have loved to hear that machinery turn. Who would of thought, certainly not I, that more than 50 years later I would get to experience a working tide mill up close and personal and that it would be my joy and privilege to share its fascination with visitors to Woodbridge Tide Mill?



Unfortunately I don't have a picture of us moored alongside this old mill. We would have been head-on to the mill pond in the foreground.

For readers who may be geographically challenged, here is a Google Map of Brightlingsea and St Osyth Creeks - with a pin at the final resting spot. Phew! Ed.



ENGINEERING GAZETTE

By John Wood

As the mill has started milling flour again it means that the machinery is running, and therefore we must continue our monthly maintenance. Sometimes we must attend to other repair work which crops up.

Most of the machinery is made of wood and was designed many years ago. Some parts such as the main waterwheel have had to be replaced in the last few decades. In all of the gear trains, wood runs against metal, to prevent sparks, so occasionally we have to replace wooden teeth when they become too worn. The whole machinery framework is held together with wooden wedges, which we must hit every month.

It is really lovely to work on the old and graceful machinery and see how the parts were designed in decades past.

It is important that the machinery is kept in good working condition, so if you have a few hours spare every month, or know anybody that does, and would like to become involved in the volunteer maintenance team, and learn or remind yourself of an ancient craft, please contact me, John Wood on 01473 611035, or email to johnwood4548@googlemail.com and I will be happy to explain what is involved.

**THE MILLER'S CHRONICLE**

By Dan Tarrant-Willis

dantarrantwillis@yahoo.com

This month we have produced more than twice the amount of flour we normally do. Our expected average production for this time of the year would normally be around 700 kilos. We had to order two deliveries of grain, where normally our deliveries are spaced every 5-6 weeks and we are going to need another delivery very soon to keep up with demand. This demand has been driven by our wholesale customers needing flour immediately, for retail sale, and by them ordering more than they usually do.

As we are still locked-down and closed to the public this has been manageable and achievable by our small lockdown team of millers and baggers; we have been bagging 4 days a week and milling 6 days a week. We feel this initial rush, and need for flour, will settle down over the next few weeks. Yet, when our restaurant customers start again, there will be another rush so we are preparing for this and we will manage.

Hopefully, production based on quantity needs from our wholesale customers will settle to pre-Covid levels. So we can refocus our efforts on being

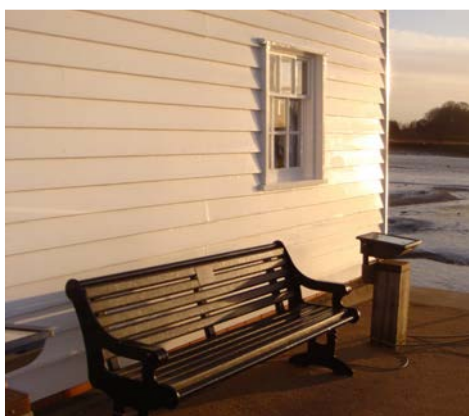
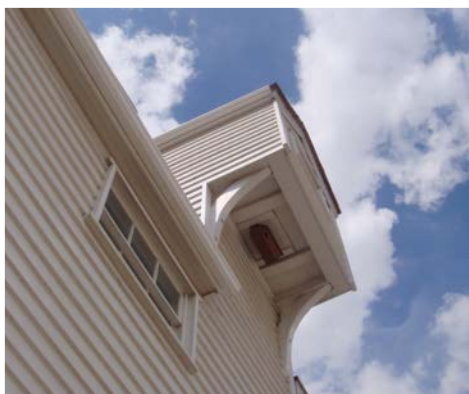
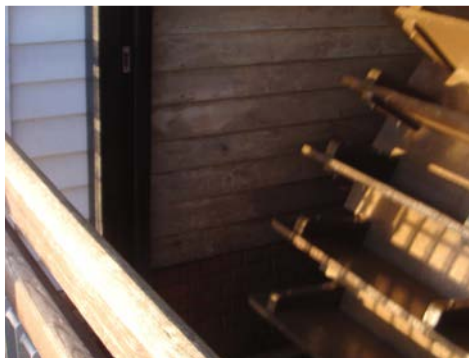
open to, and ready for, the public on the 4th of July.

Although, these are difficult times, in many respects, one pleasurable aspect has been being able to run the mill just for producing flour, as it was originally intended. Yet the production of flour is only one of our sources of charitable sales that we need to keep the mill going. In this sense, the recent need for flour and our ability to increase production has been heaven sent.

This year's production of our super flour to date this year is 2,951.7 kg.

(6,507²/5 lb. Ed.)





Here are a few more images of Woodbridge Tide Mill, but unattributed this time. Taken by volunteers at the Tide Mill and used previously with their permission.

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

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.

Diary Dates for 2020

FOR THE TIME BEING, WHILST THE TIDE MILL REMAINS CLOSED, WE ARE SUSPENDING THIS TABLE OF EVENTS, PENDING CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS LEADING TO A SAFE STRATEGY, WITH REGARD TO THE CURRENT COVID 19 SCARE.

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

WHAT IS IT? ANSWER

This a redundant belt drive wheel on the end of the lower sack hoist system shaft.

