



MILL BITS

The Newsletter of the CRANBROOK WINDMILL ASSOCIATION

Summer 2018

Chairman: Denis Hemstead., Secretary: Andrew White, Treasurer: Peter Bourne

MEMBERS ANNUAL SUMMER PARTY FRIDAY, 6TH JULY, 7.30PM IN THE RUSSELL BUILDING

Come and enjoy our Summer Party. Light refreshments will be provided. A donation of about £3 per person would be appreciated to cover costs.

Please email Linda Swann swann.sheafe@btinternet.com or telephone 01580 712732 to confirm your attendance.

Miller Training Sessions

A Session took place on 4th April when a number of aspiring millers were shown the ropes. The wind was obliging and grinding took place under the watchful eye of Terry West.



Ladies can be millers, too.



Success!

There's no discrimination in CWA and ladies can be assured of equal pay with the men.



Wheels of Time

This new venture appears to be very popular with youngsters as can be seen from these two photos taken on consecutive Saturdays in May. The green hulk (right) is the record holder so far, with 23 badges, including one from Willesborough Mill, near Ashford.



What's New?



Diorama Complete



New Hessian Cover for Stones

In April, Pam Hudson finished her painting of the backdrop for the slimmed down diorama in the Russell Building and it looks splendid – well done, Pam.

Another welcome contribution came from Val Mummery, who has made a new specially shaped hessian cover for our French burr stones because the old cover had seen many years service (one estimate is 25!) – and very smart the new one looks. Many thanks, Val.. After grinding, quite a lot of flour is left inside the wooden casing so the cover is vital to keep out dust and insects until the next session.

A Surprise Visit

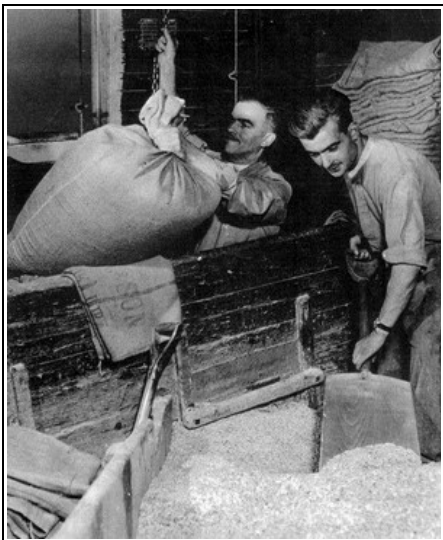
Saturday May 20th proved to be a busy day with lots of families with youngsters. In addition, a group of forty Scouts from Tunbridge Wells, spending the weekend at Swattenden Centre, unexpectedly appeared at the mill in the afternoon, wearing their bright yellow T-shirts. Fortunately for the stewards on duty, the Scouts were accompanied by several adults, were divided into groups of eight and sent into the mill at regular intervals. The others watched a video in the basement or visited the displays in the Russell building.



More from the Union Mill Archive

In the years during and after WWII the mill business was offering an incredible range of products for farmers and smallholders and was more like a general agricultural store.

Samuel Mercer was an employee at the mill from 1946 to 1950 and he wrote a letter to Jack & Peggy Fryer, founding members of the Association, with details of the commercial activities of the mill then. He wrote that, during his time, twelve people were employed at the mill. His father, Reuben, worked as foreman for the “governor”, John Russell, and Henry Hicks was the grinder. In addition, the following were employed: painter, sack-mender, salesman, lorry driver, carter, gardener, shepherd, hay trusser, as well as two ladies working as clerk and cook.



Every Tuesday the "governor" went to Ashford Market to buy feedstuffs, fertilizers, etc, from firms such as Pauls, Lillies, and BOCM (British Oil & Cake Mills). Sulphate of ammonia, basic slag, corn, and much more, came by train and had to be unloaded into a large store at Hartley Station.

<< Reuben and Samuel Mercer

Samuel listed the many activities which were carried out in the mill and attached buildings: wheat, oats, barley, and maize were ground, and oats were rolled. Self-raising & plain flour was sold in quantities from 140lbs (63.5Kg!) to 3.5lbs (1.6Kg). Seed-corn was cleaned and dressed, maize and wheat were kibbled, and layers meal and pig

meal were mixed. Oat straw was sold for feeding, barley straw for strawberries, and wheat straw for thatching; hay was sold by truss or bag.

At the end of Samuel's letter was a long list of smaller items for sale, which farmers and smallholders might need, including seed potatoes, binder twine, china eggs, dried milk, dog biscuits, grass seed, weed killer, buckwheat millett, bird seed, pigeon food, chicken rings, oyster shell, salt blocks, peat, cod liver oil, linseed cake, and black treacle.

What the Papers Said

Kentish Weekly Post & Canterbury Journal - 10th January 1815

Daring Burglary at Tenterden - Mr Parton's (water)mill at Tenterden having been broken into repeatedly and robbed, Mr.Parton's son and the grinder armed themselves and determined to watch the premises. About midnight on Thursday last, two men entered the mill and proceeded to the flour bin, when the parties who were watching immediately rolled some sacks against the mill door so as to prevent the retreat of the robbers and called them to surrender themselves. They refused and a desperate scuffle ensued in which the robbers were ultimately overpowered, one having been shot in the breast with a pistol, and the other wounded with a cutlass. And in this state they were left, it was thought senseless, while further assistance was sought. In the interim, however, they recovered and it is conjectured, by the assistance of an accomplice on the outside, one effected an escape, but Mr.Parton, jun, fortunately returned in time to prevent the retreat of the other. The man, named Hart, was conveyed to the Gaoler's house in Tenterden, where he lingered till about 3o'clock on Saturday morning, when he expired. Previously to his death he disclosed the name of his accomplice, George Page, who was seriously wounded in the head, and for whose apprehension a reward of 20gns is offered.

Parton's (Ashbourne) Mill, Tenterden >>



Final Bits

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