



MILL BITS

The Newsletter of the CRANBROOK WINDMILL ASSOCIATION

Spring 2019

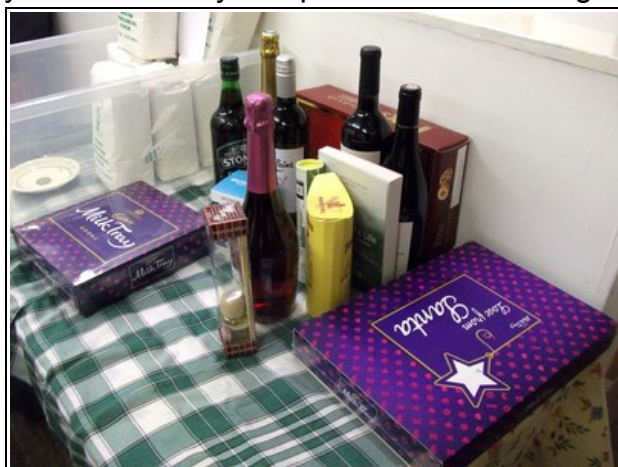
Chairman: Nick Vinall; Secretary: Hazel Jobson; Treasurer: Peter Bourne

2018 AGM – Report

36 members of the Association attended the 2018 AGM held in the Russell Building on Sunday 25th November. Denis Hemsted was unwell so Nick Vinall, the Vice Chairman, ran the meeting. Our treasurer reported that overall Visitor Numbers had increased by 13% to a total of 3,222, with the income actually 27% higher at £6,274. However, the Association's expenditure had more than doubled to £7,178, resulting in a deficit of £904. This was entirely due to the cost of urgent repairs to replace or restore some of the Russell Building windows, which were seriously affected by rot.

Denis Hemsted indicated that whilst he was happy to continue to serve the Committee he was not seeking re-election as Chairman. Andy White and Joy Temple were not seeking re-election to the Committee, although they wished to continue as active members of the Association. Susan Hooper was nominated to join the Committee, and the changes were unanimously agreed by the meeting. Nick Vinall appointed as Chairman, Denis Hemsted, Vice Chairman, Hazel Jobson, Secretary and Peter Bourne, Treasurer. The other Committee Members elected were Ian Burrows, Pat Hall, and Susan Hooper.

Raffle Prizes and Flour for Sale >>



SPRING CLEAN.

Join the Work Party to clean the mill on **Saturday 23rd March** between 10am and 12noon. Please come along and give a hand.

Stewards Update Day, Saturday, 30th March, 2019

As you may know Child Safeguarding is an important aspect of all Visitor Attractions, Museums, etc., and the Association has a duty to provide a safe environment for Children and Vulnerable Adults visiting the Windmill. In accordance with best practice we have developed a Child Safeguarding Policy and from this we have produced a simple Code of Behaviour to be followed by us all. A short presentation regarding this will be given at the Stewards Update day. It is very important that you **make every effort to attend**, not only to ensure that you are aware of the new Code, but also as a reminder of our Fire and Accident Emergency Plans, etc.

Maintenance Report

Nick Vinall, with some help from Ian Burrows, has been busy upgrading the kitchen in the Russell Building. This refurbishment is now complete and provides more working surfaces and cupboard space. Three new units have been built and installed, with matching doors and drawer fronts, and new worktops. The units under the sink have been smartened up internally and have replacement doors. Finally the walls have been redecorated.



A satisfied inspection team

The new kitchen is ideal for anyone who would like to assist as a member of our occasional **Catering Team** to help out with our social functions. These are generally quite simple teas for volunteers (Summer Party and AGM) but occasionally we host receptions at the mill for other mill groups, KCC representatives, judging for Britain in Bloom, local businesses, etc. We would also welcome a volunteer to help us keep the Russell Building clean and tidy. This would suit someone living locally and entails keeping an eye on, and visiting, the building once or twice a month to ensure that the kitchen and toilet facilities are in good order and well supplied.

Other Ways you can Help the Association

Flour Baggers - Our flour production is increasing and we would like to have a team of willing flour baggers to offer a few hours as and when required by the milling team. Why not join the **Milling Group** and become really knowledgeable about the mill and train to be a miller and/or a grease monkey!

Woodchurch Mill Damaged by Wind



As a result of high winds and lashing rain on Sunday, 27th January, 2019, Woodchurch mill lost part of one sweep, as can be seen in the accompanying photograph. The mill is owned by Ashford Borough Council who will have to foot the bill for repairs and make the mill safe, now that it is unbalanced.



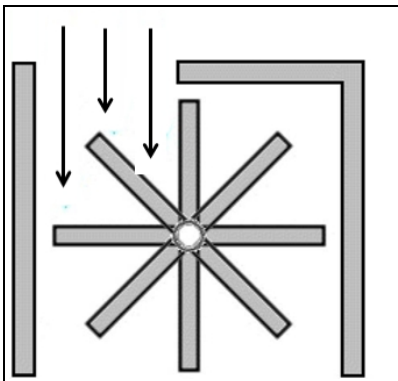
This might have happened to the Union Mill but for the recent repairs to our sweeps. When they were taken down, a worrying amount of rot had developed in one of the stocks (see picture). Could this be the cause of the damage to Woodchurch's mill?

Vertical Windmills

After the business part of the AGM last November, Nick Vinall gave a most interesting short talk on the early history of windmills; here's a few notes from that talk.

Flat wooden sails can be made large enough and will rotate if one half is shielded from the wind but a large shield cannot be turned to face any wind direction. In parts of Arabia and Iran however, the wind direction is fairly constant and such structures were used from around 500 AD. A model (below centre) is of a 1000 year old vertical mill in Nashtifan, Iran, that is still working and the millstones are housed below the sails. You can watch a video of the mill in operation on YouTube. Search for "Nashtifan windmills" or use this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qqifEdqf5g>



What the Papers Said

WARNING! - Don't mix your grains

Maidstone Gazette 11 April 1814

At the West and East Kent Quarter Sessions held at Maidstone Town Hall, Mr. F. Haynes was indicted for mixing oats with a certain quantity of barley, given to him by John Norton. On 4th March 1814, Mr. Norton bought a quarter of barley, for which he gave 41s, then the highest price on the market, which he took to Haynes Mill, at Brasted, to be ground. On its being returned to him, the meal was found to be musty, and to contain a quantity of oatmeal. Norton took some of the same barley to another miller, of the name of Staples, who ground it, and it produced sweet meal. Various witnesses were called and it transpired that oats had been ground the day previous (by Haynes), and more than usual had accidentally been left (in the hopper and stones) and so became mixed with the barley.

Verdict: F. Haynes, for unlawfully mixing oatmeal with barley sent to him to be ground - Fined £50, and six months imprisonment.

Final Bits

Editor: Tony Singleton. t: 01580-753431, e: tonysing@unionmill.org.uk

If newer members would like to read recent earlier copies of Mill Bits (from March 2017), they can be found on the Union Mill website at www.unionmill.org.uk/MillBits.htm