



NEWSLETTER 140

DECEMBER 2024

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Indoor meetings are held at New Hall Mill, Sutton Coldfield B76 1QU (SP132945), or at “Fircone”, 1237 Stratford Rd, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9AA on the first Saturday of the month (October to April) at 2.15pm for 2.30pm, unless otherwise stated. Adequate free parking is available. If you need directions for finding us, please contact the Hon. Secretary, John Bedington, tel.: 01926 851127.

Saturday 1st February 2025, at 2pm. Zoom meeting. Talk by Geoff Wallis: *The restoration of Kibworth Harcourt Windmill.* The restoration of this ancient post windmill was a tricky job not least because the whole body of the mill had to be supported whilst the trestle was worked on. Geoff will explain how this and other problems were overcome.

Saturday 1st March 2025 at 2.30pm. Meeting at “Fircone”, 1237 Stratford Rd, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9AA. Talk by John Bedington on *“The mills of Orkney and Shetland.”* The outer Scottish Islands, particularly the Shetlands, were the last place in the UK where the little “Norse” watermills with horizontal wheels were in use. But there were also mills which were just as large and well equipped and those further south.

Future meetings & Events continued on back page.

Season’s Greetings to all our readers

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The MMG Newsletter appears three times a year, in Spring, late Summer and mid-Winter. The next Newsletter will be published in April 2025 - all contributions should be sent to the Newsletter Editor, Mrs. Kate Bonson, by 18th March 2025.

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Mills Open Leaflet Editor: Miss Susan Young, as Treasurer, above.

Membership Subscription: £15 per year (August - July) due in August. Cheques should be made payable to 'Midland Mills Group', and sent to the Membership Secretary, address above. Payment may also be made by Bankers Standing Order or direct (internet) banking - Sort Code 60 02 35, Account Number 78164265, account name 'Midland Mills Group'.

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REPORTS OF MEETINGS

MMG Own Cars Trip, Wednesday 25th September 2024

Report by David Dewick

The balmy weather of the previous week may have deserted us to be replaced with rain and overcast skies, but it was good for this new MMG member to meet for the first time many new faces and people of similar interest in today's own car trip.

Special thanks to William Waddilove for organising the trip and the guides at each location for their tales and insights into each of the mills.

The trip visited three mills, Churchill Forge, between Stourbridge and Kidderminster, Daniels Mill, near Bridgnorth, and Knowles Mill near Bewdley. It is quite interesting how local places of interest so often get overlooked simply because of their proximity. Having lived in nearby Amblecote for over 40 years, this is my first visit to Churchill Forge.

The visit to **Churchill Forge** is only my second visit to a watermill that doesn't mill corn, the first

being to Coombe Mill, a water-powered sawmill, near Witney a few weeks ago. As a result, the tour led by **Daniel Bache** was of particular interest. As details of the mill are readily available online and in print, I will not repeat them here, but the workings of this mill do provide first hand experience of how the mills on the local streams worked, producing many simple everyday tools before the advent of the industrial revolution, although the forge clearly worked well into the middle of the 20th century. My father-in-law (coincidentally also a Bache) worked as a stamper in nearby Blackheath and I am certain he would have immediately recognised many of the pieces of equipment inside the forge.

The gallery in the forge has on display a variety of the tools made in the forge, and the description of how, for example, a spade is made from a single piece of metal was extremely informative, and reflects the skill of those employed in the forge at the time.

Reports of meetings - Own car trip



Forming the bowl of a ladle

The gallery had not only gardening and other agricultural implements, but also ladles used in other metal and glass foundries. In the time I worked for a group of metal foundries in the Midlands, ladles not dissimilar to these were used in the aluminium die-cast foundries for making all kinds of small castings, and we were told that similar ladles can be seen in operation in the Wordsley Cone glassworks today. We were also told that the forge operated well into the second World War, and in the finishing shed we saw a pick-axe head made in 1943 and stamped with a government stamp. Our attention was drawn to the relative simplicity of the pick-axe head for the government compared to the



A selection of spades and forks made in the forge

relative complexity of a pick-axe head destined for the domestic market.

News about various events, not the least floods, at Daniels Mill and Knowles Mill will have already been seen in the MMG's August Newsletter, Number 139.

Daniels Mill I had visited once before, but sadly not when it was working. I have long harboured an interest in mills to the south of Bridgnorth as a result of my family history research and my previous visit to Daniels Mill was part of that research, although I have no family connection to it.

Reports of meetings - Own car trip

The tour led by **Adam Marriott** and **Peter George** was particularly interesting. Even having visited before, I had only looked inside the mill buildings themselves. This tour took us up to the mill pool above the mill. Whilst a lot may be known about the mill, it is clear that there are still many aspects of the way in which the mill developed as a site that are still open to conjecture. What I had missed on my previous visit was the remains of an older mill underneath the dam of the mill pool, and we listened to an explanation of how that earlier mill may have operated based on the limited amount of the structure still standing, and also based on paintings of the older mill showing it as it was (or may have been) before it fell into disrepair.

The damage caused by recent floods was described and the work that has been done to re-instate the mill to the condition it is today, with the huge iron mill wheel turning, and the hope that the mill will be once again able to grind corn by the end of this year.



Daniels Mill



*Daniels Mill waterwheel
main bearing*

It was interesting to see that the mill wheel still needed some attention even after the recent work carried out on the main bearings as pieces of purple

Reports of meetings - Own car trip

heartwood were being packed into place in the bearing housing. The purple heartwood forming the new bearing bed can be seen in the photo.

Peter's talk about the mill made it very clear that running and maintaining a mill of this mill's heritage value is not an easy task, especially when faced with the difficulty of obtaining insurance for a building next to a watercourse, the frustration of having so many other bodies with a vested interest to be consulted before any kind of work can be commenced, and of course the costs of the work itself. I look forward to visiting the mill again in the near future, and buying some locally milled flour.

A note about this trip cannot omit a reference to the super 'Witch on the Water' tearoom at the mill, where we all enjoyed lunch, and a good natter.

Knowles Mill is a mill of which I had not previously heard, despite in my dog-walking days having visited on numerous occasions



Knowles Mill front entrance

various parts of the Wyre Forest. **Dr. Tom Elliot** was most informative, adding much to the article about the mill that I had read in the August newsletter. However, particularly alarming were the brass plaques showing the levels of various old and quite recent floods which help to illustrate the power that heavy rain can have to swell even the smallest brook and turn it into a raging and life threatening torrent.

Reports of meetings - Own car trip

The plaques can be seen on the left-hand side of the lower door.

Dr. Elliot, in describing the mill wheel at the rear of the mill, speculated that the mill may have operated as a fulling mill at one time. This was based on the width of the mill wheel, parts of which can still be seen. He also surmised that the current mill wheel, although in a serious state of decay, might actually have been even wider.

He also suggested that the mill could be restored into a fully-working flour mill, although this would clearly require a significant amount of investment. Re-circulating the water needed to drive the mill wheel is an option, with the water leaving the tail race pumped back up to a header tank to feed the mill wheel. I could not help but notice that the mill wheel here bears a remarkable similarity to that at Wrickton.



Waterwheel at Knowles (left) and at Wrickton (right)

Reports of meetings

Midland Wind and Watermills Group AGM Saturday 5th October 2024, Forge Mill, Redditch

1. Apologies for absence

John Bedington, Neil Riddle, Barry Whitehouse.

2. Minutes of 2023 AGM

No comments.

3. Secretary's Report

The report was read by the Chairman.

Feedback on the topic of talks via Zoom/In person was requested.

John Copping highlighted the success he had in gaining interest in MMG activities from other societies.

Mike Lovatt asked about the possibility of sending newsletters as PDF documents via email to members to save on postage, but Tony Bonson advised that most of the members would prefer a paper copy, (although an emailed version would be done for anyone who asked).

4. Treasurer's Report

Two versions of the same figures for Income and Expenditure 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 were published, with the Restoration Fund shown separate in one version as it isn't measured over a financial year. The Accounts haven't yet been examined, although they will be sent to John Copping for this purpose.

This is the last year before the membership subscription increase. MMG had assets of nearly £14k at the end of July 2024 including £5714 in the Restoration Fund. A £5000 donation to the Restoration Fund has made most of this increase from last years £10k assets, as on the day to day running we are nearly £500 overspent even with lower expenses. The 50% membership subscription increase will hopefully see us through for years to come. £1000 x 2 to Daniels Mill are the main grants this year from the Restoration Fund.

Reports of meetings - AGM

5. Membership Secretary's Report

MMG has 148 members inc. 2 life members (June Booth and Alan Gifford), 131 paid - 108 fully paid but 23 underpaid, and 15 not paid. A reminder to be sent with the December newsletter.

Kate explained that company memberships are also £15, and although a different person can attend through the year, an individual membership for each will be sought if there appears to be heavy usage of this.

6. Chairman's Comments

The chairman pointed out that he has served past the usual 3 year limit, even taking into account the 2020 lockdown.

The membership numbers are static.

The journal is coming along nicely.

It is up to the members to decide what they want, but with the numbers attending in-person meeting dwindling a move towards Zoom will be likely.

A “thankyou” was given to everyone who had organised activities for MMG.

7. Election of Committee and Officers

Peter King proposed and William Waddilove seconded the current committee.

The proposal for John Copping to join the committee was made by William Waddilove and seconded by Susan Young.

8. Appointment of Accounts Examiner

Discussion ensued regarding the Accounts Examiner being part of the committee, when an independent person would be preferred. Although John can continue in this role, suggestions for someone else with suitable experience to become Accounts Examiner would be welcomed.

9. Any Other Business

The idea of including MMG bank details on membership forms, posters, website etc was discussed. In the past it hasn't been done due to security concerns and a bad experience of another society whose accounts were emptied by fraudulent means. It was felt that with increased bank security nowadays that we should reconsider – having to phone or email for the information was

Reports of meetings - AGM and afterwards

likely to be a deterrent to new members and those wishing to purchase our publications.

It was agreed to include MMG membership forms with the boxes of Mills Open Leaflets distributed.

With regard to the out-of-print journals it was suggested that these should be available for free and could be added to Public Records online, but the more recent ones should be charged for. Kate to send 5 old journals to William to scan as a trial, as the newer ones would be available from the printers as a PDF.

Following our AGM, Mike Lovatt, committee member and miller at Stanway Mill, and Tony Bonson, our chairman, each gave a short talk.

Mike started with his talk entitled:

Bruern Farm Mill - A modern electrically driven Mill set-up

Henry Astor inherited Bruern Farm from his father Martin Astor, an aristocratic family with many famous members. The 1200-acre mixed farm in Chipping Norton specialised in heritage wheat growing. They also grew vegetables, and raised pigs, chickens and cattle.

He began bringing wheat to Stanway Mill for Mike to grind in 2021. Initially the quality of grain brought was very poor but eventually Mike got him to pay attention and the standard improved. As the business expanded and quantities increased it naturally made it impractical to keep shipping

grain and flour backwards and forwards to Stanway. So, he decided to build his own mill.

Henry obtained a grant from FIPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes) and purchased an electric stone mill installation from New American Stone Mills in Vermont USA at a cost of approx. £25,000.

The unit consists of a pair of 4ft diameter American granite stones and a 2-grade sifter. Each has its own electric motor. All controls are electric except the flow control from the hopper which operates by hand wheel. There is also a stone crane.

Reports of meetings - after the AGM



Bruern electrically driven mill

Once the long familiarity process had been followed, he began building up quite a business and the demand for his heritage blends became sought after.

He has a café and a farm produce shop on site. He grows sunflowers and charges the public to tour round them. He runs venison butchering courses, hosts regular Farmers Markets. He set up a Cotswold Grain Network (now defunct) and Cotswold farming co-operative. His wife also runs high spec self-catering cottages on the farm.

The success of his flour production has meant that the granite stones have been blunting and wearing quite quickly with the increased usage and require regular dressing. Henry is now considering getting a larger capacity unit.

Following **Mike's** presentation, **Tony** presented his talk, entitled:

Water Power and (possibly) Wind Power at a 16th Century South American Silver Mine

Francis Pizarro and a small force of Spaniards conquered Peru in South America between 1529 and 1533 when they captured the Inca emperor. They then ransomed him for one room full of gold and two rooms full of silver. Not satisfied with just the ransom, the Spaniards were

intent on tracing the silver and gold back to their sources. They successfully discovered the origin of the Incas' silver at the small town of Potosi in 1545.

The town of Potosi lies on the Altiplano or "high plain" of Bolivia at

Reports of meetings - after the AGM

about 13,000 feet above sea level. It sits at the foot of a mountain which the Spaniards called “Cerro Rico” or rich mountain, the source of the silver.

From the 1550s Potosi was at the centre of the first explosive development of global intercontinental exchange creating the first true globalized economic and trading network. In effect it created the first global currency of exchange, the “pieces of eight”. The most famous image of the “Cerro Rico” came from the much-copied 1553 woodcut illustration published in the “Cronica del Peru” by Cieza de Leon.

Most of the silver mined was shipped off to Spain, fuelling the expansion of not only the Spanish economy, paying for Spain’s wars of expansion in Europe (including financing the Spanish Armada), but also provided the money for the expansion of the Chinese Empire through trading. The fame of the mine attracted people from all over the world to Potosi and there were many depictions of the 1553 Potosi illustration produced. The amount of silver mined was

immense. During the 16th and 17th centuries 50-60% of the silver mined worldwide came from Potosi.

In the “Cerro Rico” there were 4 veins of silver, and in 1587 silver ore was mined in 87 individual adits where 20,000 miners worked. In 1611 Potosi had a population of 160,000 (the largest city in the world). According to estimates, up to 17 million tons of silver were mined from Potosi over 4 centuries. China received 50 tons of silver per year via Philippine Islands, another Spanish Colony.

Once the ore had been mined it had to be processed to produce pure silver. This process required the ore to be reduced to rubble prior to smelting in a furnace, a process that required waterpower to crush the ore. Initially 18 dams were built in the hills near Potosi to provide this water supply. By 1621 there were 32 dams providing all the power required.

So much ore had to be processed that the water system powered 74 waterwheel powered stamps housed

Reports of meetings - after the AGM

in 48 factories. Illustrations show the dams in the hills with their water channels to some of the factories, and how the waterwheels cascade along a leat so that the tailrace of one became the headrace of the next. Each overshot waterwheel was between 6 to 8 meters diameter and drove vertical stamps that would pound the ore into a fine powder which could then be smelted.

As previously mentioned, the famous 1553 illustration of the “Cerro Rico” was much copied and it seemed that each artist would add their own embellishments, to such an extent that some show trees where no trees should be and some depicted these

trees as windmills. These windmills were again copied with all manner of styles which makes you wonder if these windmills ever existed as no real evidence confirms their existence.

Potosi is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and contains The Museum of The Spanish Mint in Potosi, housing lots of old machines for coin making some probably driven by animal power and some 19th century mint machinery powered by steam engines.

I would like to thank Mike and Tony for the assistance they gave me to write this report.

Allan Long



Potosi Waterwheel



Potosi Windmill

Reports of meetings

Watermills of Mid Wales, from Coast to Border A talk by Andrew Findon via ZOOM on 2nd November 2024.

Andrew started his talk by recollecting his time in the Midlands and his association with the Midland Mills Group and in particular with John Bedington at Charlecote Mill near Stratford on Avon.

Looking for a watermill to buy in his retirement in the early 2000s, he eventually settled on Wales, and went to see a semi derelict watermill at **Mydroilyn** near Lampeter, which had been for sale for 6 years. After protracted dealings with the vendor, he bought the mill and set about restoring the roof and the waterwheel.

However, during 2003 Andrew came across Y Felin Fach, a former oat mill at **Blaenpennal** which despite requiring complete restoration was a better proposition than his previous purchase and so that was sold and Andrew concentrated on the oat mill.

After 4 years of work on the mill house which included a complete new roof covering of Welsh slate, he moved in and then concentrated on restoring the waterwheel. 450 bolts on the cast sole plates and buckets had to be drilled out and replaced with 600 bolts on new galvanized steel

components. A collapsed outer bearing was rebuilt and the wheel is now turning. There was evidence of an “escape” sluice in the pentrough. The internal layout of the mill is 2 pairs of stones, winnower, drying kiln and “manual” sack hoist. Oats were passed through the first stones which were set at approx. 1/8” to shell the grain, then through the winnower and then dried in the kiln for approx. 5 hours to achieve 3-4% moisture level after which they were ground in the second pair of stones. The first pair of stones had a 4-arm rynd to provide better location for the runner stone as it was running higher than normal.

Andrew has been approached by several enthusiasts who are keen to re-instate the process, and this may develop in the future.

There were 3000 waterpower sites in Wales. There are now 351 known sites in Cardiganshire and 278 in

Reports of meetings - Mills in Wales

Montgomeryshire. A picture of a typical breastshot wheeled mill at **Rhydyfelin** was shown. The mill has now been lost.

Dyfi Furnace Mill near **Machynlleth** was a blast furnace with an overshot wheel which was converted into a sawmill.



Dyfi Furnace Mill

(photo: Andrew Borland)

In **Ceredigion** there are two working mills; a watermill at **St. Dogmaels** near Cardigan which was bought in 1977 by Mike Hall and restored to working order. It is now run by his daughter and producing flour. The other is at **Cenarth**, with an undershot wheel originating in the 1100s. Sadly it is not working at present due to a damaged weir.

Also in Ceredigion there is a working watermill near **Aberystwyth**, **Felin Ganol** belonging to the Parry family which has a 12 ft overshot wheel.

At **Talgarth** in **Powys** the town mill has been totally restored by the local community using machinery removed from **Rhyd y Pandy** mill at **Llangeitho**.



Cenarth Mill

At **Talybont** near **Aberystwyth** there is a woollen mill which stopped working in 1936 and is now in a very dilapidated state. At **Llanrhystud** another disused woollen mill remains. At **Blaenpennal** a thatched watermill has been restored as holiday accommodation. This mill was involved in the felt hat production process which was a common local

Reports of meetings - Mills in Wales

industry. According to the 1841 census 51 people in the village were involved in hat production, but by 1851 this number had dropped to 5. A picture was shown of the hat which resembled a rimmed helmet which were popular with miners who attached candles to the front.

At **Pontdolgoch** near **Newtown**, there was a water powered saw mill with an overshot wheel. Line shafting from the mill transmitted power across the yard to the workshop to drive a rack bench saw and various other equipment. Amongst the products made were wagon wheels and coffins! A short video was shown of the setting up of the bandsaw.

Near **Talybont** at **Bont Goch**, a grain mill has a new owner who is planning to do a full restoration.

At **Pontysgawrhyd**, **Meifod**, near Welshpool, David Wadley bought a watermill on the river Vyrnwy in 2003 which was originally 2 mills joined together. One half was badly deteriorated and subsequently demolished. David has now restored the remaining half and is living in an adjacent converted barn.

On the River Banwy is **Melin y ddol**, a watermill with a Pelton wheel for generating electricity.

At **Rhyd y Pandy** near **Llangeitho** the owners of a watermill wanted the semi derelict machinery removed. Andrew and others arranged this, and as previously stated it was transported to Talgarth mill and restored.

Andrew ended his talk by summarizing the activities of the Welsh Mills Society which involve: :

- Research into mills
- Organising working parties
- Records
- Rescuing machinery
- Providing information
- Offering help and advice
- Publishing newsletters

They organize 2 meetings a year held in different parts of a very large catchment area.

New members are always welcome.
Visit the website: welshmills.org

Mike Lovatt

NEWS OF MILLS

Dumbleton mill, Gloucestershire



Following my report in MMG Newsletter No. 132 (April 2022), I went to see progress on Dumbleton mill, where the waterwheel is being rebuilt.

They are doing well. It seems unlikely any further machinery will be got working, the owners want to use it as spare accommodation for friends and family.

Dumbleton Waterwheel

Mike Lovatt

Heage Windmill, Derbyshire

*Alan Gifford reports:
Heage Windmill now has
its own flag - see right*



NEWS OF MILLS - Heage

Heage Windmill - Press Release Work begins on Stone Tower at Heage

Work has now started to repair and refurbish the distinctive ironstone tower at Heage Windmill, the only six sail, stone towered, windmill in the country and the last working windmill in Derbyshire. Built from locally quarried stone (on site actually!) the exposed tower has eroded significantly and was in need of major re-pointing to limit water ingress. Permission to work on the Grade 2* mill was obtained and planning went ahead.

The squat tower is approx. 23'0" tall to the curb and 21'0" feet diameter at the base. The initial approach was to scaffold the entire mill to be able to access the upper half but this work was known to be a time consuming exercise, would cost a lot of money and, of great concern, would prevent the cap, with its full complement of shutters, from being kept into the wind. After discussion with our listed building craftsman, Andrew Churchman, it became clear that he only



*Heage Windmill - Repair
comparison
(photo: Roger Hatchet)*

needed the scaffold for the upper half and could do the rest from ground level. The idea emerged: 'Why not suspend a support from the fan tail staging? This could then be turned progressively round with the cap, weather

NEWS OF MILLS - Heage

permitting, but also easily moved to windward if strong winds were forecast. In liaison with the scaffolding contractor a tubular steel tube structure was designed which hung clear of the lower half of the tower and provided two working platforms at height.

The structure was quickly erected at a much lower cost than full scaffold would have cost and Andrew was able work safely, using, of course, traditional lime cement. A team of our volunteers were on hand at all times to turn the cap and staging as the work proceeded. As this note is prepared (October 2024) pointing of the upper part is almost complete and then the scaffold will be removed and there then will be a pause during the winter months and the job is expected to be completed by late spring next year.

The work has been possible through the efforts of our fundraising team who obtained grants from the AIA (Association



*A long shot of Heage
Windmill scaffolding
(photo: Roger Hatchet)*

for Industrial Archaeology) and the Headley Trust, with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Alan Gifford

NEWS OF MILLS

Chesterton Windmill in the news

*BBC News, West Midlands, report on 13 October 2024
(supplied to MMG by William Waddilove)*

Historic Warwickshire landmark Chesterton Windmill is set for restoration after plans were submitted to replace its missing sails.

The Grade I-listed monument has overlooked the village of Chesterton for nearly 350 years and can be seen from several miles away.

It is proposed the new timber sails are to be slightly shorter, with clamps added for safety.

The old sails were removed in 2021 amid concerns about the risk their condition posed to the public.

In 2006, a visitor to the site was air lifted to hospital when a timber sail collapsed.

Site guardian Warwickshire County Council said the windmill was built between 1632 and 1633, probably by Sir Edward

Peyton, former Lord of the Chesterton Manor House.

It was built from local limestone, with sandstone detailing on semi-circular arches at its base and a metal-lined dome roof.

The structure, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, is thought to be the earliest tower mill in England to retain any working parts.

According to a heritage statement, submitted with plans, it ceased work as a mill in the 1910s and has been subject to numerous refurbishments over the years.

The new sails have been designed to be slightly shorter and made from timber, with steel metalwork.

The design for new sails and stocks to mimic the historic working set was drawn up by Bonwick Heritage Consultancy.

NEWS OF MILLS - Chesterton



Chesterton Windmill floodlit

The planning application also seeks to repair the monument's walls.

The council said a Scheduled Monument Consent application sent to Historic England in February had been approved,

An application to Stratford District Council, for final approval for the works is due to be determined by 25 November.

Owlsworth Conservation was appointed as the main contractor for the refurbishment in May.

Welcome ...
... to the following new members:

Andrew Goddard of Bromsgrove
David Waghorn of Thornton Heath

NEWS OF MILLS

Mordiford Watermill for Sale



Watermill for Sale - Located in Herefordshire at Mordiford, over the last 37 years it has been carefully restored back to working order and is now grinding again.

Located in the centre of the village in a lovely part of the Wye Valley. It has a 16ft. dia. overshot wheel, two pairs of stones and ancillary machinery and a rich history stretching back to the mediaeval times.

The current owner has a 99 year repairing lease on the mill from the local estate, of which there is 62 years remaining. He wishes to find a caring mill enthusiast, to transfer the lease to enjoy running and maintaining the mill and restoring the ancillary machinery .

*Please contact:-
andytatchell@gmail.com*

Herefordshire History Festival - May 2025

Next year there will be a History Festival in Herefordshire taking place over the period 10-18 May which will overlap National Mills weekend 10/11th May. The Festival is a new initiative inspired by the success of the arts and sustainability events (H-Art and H-Energy).

The History Festival is being put together by a small steering group led by Cllr David Hitchiner. It may start small while funds are limited, but we hope, like them, it will become an annual celebration of the County's rich heritage, offering a range of visits, talks and experiences not normally available.

I am aware that annually between 8 and 14 of Herefordshire's historic mills open to visitors during the May weekend. The work of the SPAB and the Midland Mills Group in providing this encouragement to mill-owners and opportunity for visitors, is very much appreciated.

My purpose in writing is to ask if you would be happy to have the Mills event included in the History Festival, ie in publicity the Festival may do. I am personally familiar with all the venues and know many of the owners, so could ask them individually, but it would obviously be easier to go through you, at least initially.

I hope Herefordshire's History Festival can add value to the Mills weekend. And vice versa.

With all best wishes,

Jeremy Milln

*<https://herefordshirehistories.org/>
jeremy.milln@gmail.com*

Future meetings & Events continued from page 1.

Saturday 5th April 2025 at 2.30pm. At New Hall Mill, Sutton Coldfield. Talk by Mike Lovatt on “*The trials and tribulations of a water miller (at Stanway Mill)*”

Saturday & Sunday 10th & 11th May 2025. *NATIONAL MILLS WEEKEND*, when as many mills as are able, will be open to the public.

Survey of Watermills in Lincolnshire

The website of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archeology includes a survey by Jon Sass of over 50 watermills in the county. Go to slha.org.uk, select Home tab (top left of site) scroll down to Lincolnshire Watermills. It's a treat to read, comments John Bedington.

Wanted - information on STAFFORDSHIRE CORN MILLS

Does anyone have any information about corn mills in Cheadle and Checkley, Staffordshire?

I am particularly interested in information before 1800 as my family history research indicates that one of my relatives, a John Stanier/Stonyer may have worked mills there between about 1745 and 1753, before moving to Mayfield in Staffordshire between 1756 and 1759, and then finally Sides Mill near Snelston about 1760.

I am having difficulty uncovering any early history of these mills.
Thank you.

David Dewick

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