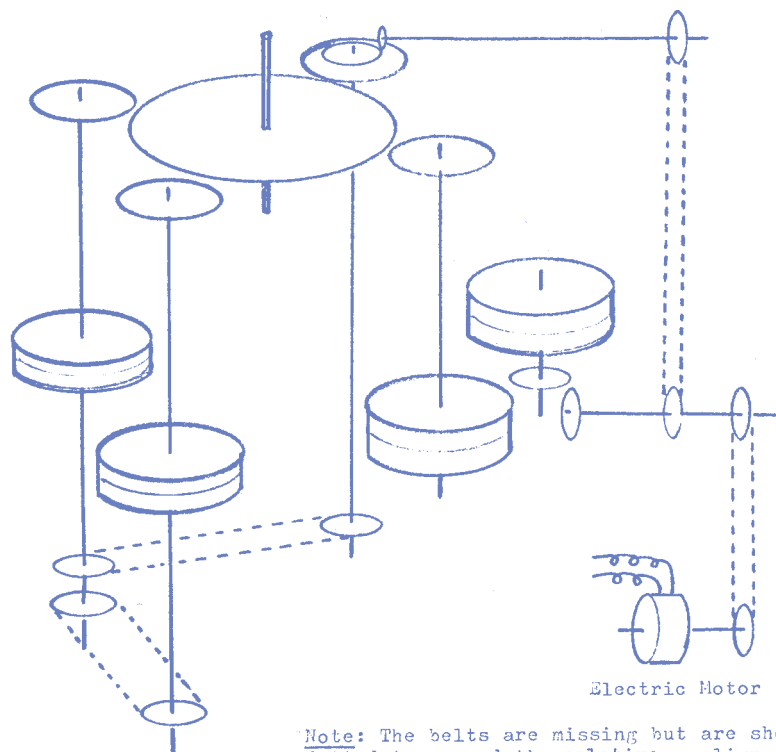


What's happened to our sack-hoist?

On the SPAB Norfolk Mill Tour Richie and Bob had an interesting chat with Niall Roberts who told them about a visit he made to Holgate Windmill in 1981. Here is a schematic sketch of the drives with some notes he made at the time.

“ Brake Wheel teeth missing (Sounds as if iron tooth-segments had been removed) - Wooden brake lever - Striker gearing missing - Chock block pivot-points - Dead curb - Upward-facing iron rack - Winding gear incomplete - Centering wheels present but no anti-tilt wheels - Sackhoist - Footstep bearings and (formerly) iron bridgetrees for three stones missing - Governor ball missing - Chimney - Did have five patent sails on iron cross but now no sails.

From the above notes it appears that the sack-hoist was in situ when Niall did his survey in 1981. So some time in the intervening years someone has nicked it. Can we have it back please?



Note: The belts are missing but are shown dotted to record the relative alignment of the pulleys.

This now sail-less five-storey tower mill still has much of its iron machinery and, happily, some restoration work is being carried out for the Castle Museum, York, that now owns it. The pace is limited by funds and at present it seems there are no plans for putting up any sails. I was not able to take part in the SPAB Yorkshire Mill Tour in 1981 which visited this mill among others, but I was able to spend about an hour inside the mill a few weeks before, through the kindness and patience of Mr Ian Taylor, Assistant Curator of the Castle Museum. The Museum's descriptive leaflet about the mill includes a magnificent cut-away drawing of the mill by Michael Taylor. The above diagram is based on a rough sketch I made inside the mill. Three pairs of stones are overdrift from the great spur wheel; a fourth pair is underdrift by an electric motor; and two of the first three pairs could alternatively be underdrift by a roundabout route from the motor.

Many thanks to Niall for his interest and for sending us his notes and drawing.

OPEN GARDENS

Visitors and 'Open Gardeners' all enjoyed a glorious afternoon in July raising over £400 - a marvellous result. Let's make this an annual event - why not offer to open your garden next year?

To continue the gardening theme - we celebrated the granting of planning permission with a daffodil bulb planting event at the end of October.

"BUY A BULB AND LIGHT UP THE WINDMILL"

Wyevale Garden Centre have already contributed the first £10 to the cost of bulbs to circle the 56 metre island. Send a £1 per bulb donation to:-

Christine Bramwell, 5 Braeside Gardens, Holgate, York YO24 4EZ

ANY ONE FOR PATRON?

The society is to lose its Patron, Dr David Hope, in February, when he retires as Archbishop of York. We had been aware that he was thinking of stepping down for a while and now that it has been confirmed we need to start looking for a new 'figurehead' for the society. We wrote to Dr Hope thanking him for his association with Holgate Windmill and sending him our good wishes for the future.

So, if anyone has any bright ideas! It would be nice to have a national 'name' and possibly someone with a heritage interest or background who could add some professional clout to our project.

So far suggestions have included news presenter and York resident Harry Gratton and York's favourite Pantomime Dame - Berwick Kaler!

Ideas to Bob Anderton at 74 Windmill Rise Holgate York YO26 4TX

Holgate Windmill Preservation Society

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Planning approval!

In early September 2004 we received the exciting news that the City of York Council had finally approved our applications for Planning and Listed Building Consent after an extended consultation process taking just under seven months. The unique nature of the application and the issues raised generated a considerable amount of correspondence and debate as Council officers sought to reassure themselves that our proposals would not have a harmful impact on nearby residents and wildlife.

Environmental Health were concerned that operation of the mill would generate unacceptable noise and The Society appointed an acoustic engineer to produce an Environmental Noise Assessment using Ellis Mill in Lincoln as a fully operational model. This showed very low additional noise generated by a working mill and this report was accepted.

Another issue related to the safeguarding of any nesting birds or bats and whilst an initial survey showed no signs of roosting the Society has agreed to carry out a more detailed study prior to the restoration works starting on site. The issue of access and visitor parking was also discussed at length and prior to the opening of the restored mill further consideration will be given to the location of parking for both able and disabled visitors.

These approvals are initially valid for a period of five years and contain a number of specific conditions relating to opening times and operation of the Mill. Opening hours can be from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs on any day of the week and the mill machinery and sails can be operated between 10.30 and 15.30 hrs. Other conditions relate to the extent and timing of the construction works and protection of the surrounding highway and verges.

Planning and Listed Building Approvals now allow the Society to progress towards the eventual submission of an application for grant aid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and form an important milestone in the restoration of Holgate Mill.

Stephen Potts - committee member

Local youngsters raise over £90.00 in Scooter Challenge!

Anyone taking a stroll around Holgate Windmill in recent days would have been aware of several local youngsters whizzing furiously around the mill on their scooters. Little did they realise that this was the latest event to raise funds for the mill. Tom Waite and David Cockerill threw down the challenge to their mates to do 500 (yes 500!) laps of the mill on their scooters. Obtaining sponsorship from local residents, these enterprising and no doubt fit kids successfully completed the challenge raising £90.50 to go towards mill renovation funds! They received HWPS Certificates of Merit to mark their efforts.

HWPS Treasurer and local resident Christine Bramwell said "This is exactly the kind of positive involvement with local youngsters that the mill needs and it puts to shame the damage caused by some thoughtless kids. With this level of interest coming from the younger generation the future of Holgate Mill is a lot more secure."



**Holgate
Windmill**

PRESERVATION SOCIETY

A message from our Chairman . . .

As you can see from Steve's article (left), the society has been successful in gaining planning permission for our scheme to fully restore the mill to its original working condition.

This has taken longer than expected, as our application was entered in February, but the main thing is that we now have planning permission!

This is the society's first major hurdle successfully completed, as without permission we could do very little to further our plans. We are also now an incorporated charity - read more about that inside.

Next step is funding - and we have made a start by making our first formal approach to Heritage Lottery Fund.

I attended a Fund Raising Seminar in Bradford in July and one of the speakers was Fiona Spiers who is Regional Manager for HLF Yorkshire. She reported an increase in heritage projects applying for lottery funding with the consequence that even good applications have had to be turned down because there was not enough money for everybody.

The application process for Lottery Funding is not easy and the information required will take some hard work, however there are at least two members of your committee with experience of this type of fundraising and so we are confident that our application will be treated with interest.

The society maintained a presence at West Bank and Rowntree Park Summer Fairs. A very enjoyable Open Gardens Afternoon was organised by Jen Hay (see back page for Jen's daffodil planting round the mill at the end of October) and a repeat of the popular Barn Dance was held in September. All funds, of course, going to the society. In all a happy and rewarding summer season!

STOP PRESS - John Boucher, our consultant millwright, as part of his research on the machinery, tells us that he believes we have the oldest surviving multi-sailed mill (more than 4 sails) in the world! Hows-about-that!

Bob Anderton



Tom Wooldridge, David Cockerill and Tom Waite holding their HWPS Certificates of Merit.

Milling about in Norfolk!

by *Richie Green - Vice Chairman*

In May of this year Bob Anderton and Richie Green took part in the SPAB Norfolk Mill Tour led by veteran millwright Vincent Pargeter. Here Richie recounts an absorbing weekend.

On our way in the pouring rain from York but thankfully it soon cleared up, changing to glorious sunshine with sunlit clouds. Heading towards Norwich and the start of the tour we spied Tuxford Windmill and of course went to take a look. An old gentleman mowing the vast lawn surrounding the mill welcomed us and explained that it was his daughter who owned it and that unfortunately he didn't have a key with him to let us in. However he did offer to sell it to us for a measly £200,000 - remarkably cheap really! Set in a stunning location with its own well, outhouses and framed by numerous deciduous trees, Tuxford won a SPAB Mill Plaque for its restoration in 1995, restored by the Ostick family. It is a wonderful windmill and a thing of grace and beauty.



Gluttons as we are, we also stopped at Heckington Windmill, the only 8-sailer left in England. Inside we were told that R Thompson and Sons had just finished major repairs to the cap (the Curb Ring) at a cost of £100,000. The local council had generously supplied £50,000 of this!



After a comfortable overnight stop at my big brother's in Norwich - off to the Ball!

On Saturday morning outside Norwich Railway Station we were welcomed aboard our coach by Simon Hudson (SPAB Windmill Section Secretary) and Vincent Pargeter (one of England's finest millwrights).

First stop was Pilson Green Mill at South Walsham. A brand new post mill, full size and spectacular. Being built by Richard Seago it may well be the finest post mill ever built. It is of the best quality with a brick roundhouse, decorative

porch and gallery and it stands on a mound overlooking miles of open countryside. Mr

Seago has funded the entire project himself, receiving no financial help

for such a monumental task.

On to Thurne Windmill. A small but famous drainage mill in the middle of the Norfolk Broads, surrounded by waterways and boats. Only

1/3rd of its shutters are fitted because there is no one on hand to look after it. Built in 1820, it is in good condition with its iron shaft clad in wood to minimise vibration. It was nearly destroyed recently when a gale caused the brake to fail and jam!



After a Ploughman's Lunch we were taken to Bob Morse's Wind Engine Museum. It is a collection of American style metal windmills of all shapes and sizes from Australia, Canada, America and England. The Canadian 'Halladay' type had everyone mesmerised, its

hinged segments spreading like fingers, opening and closing, capturing and spilling the wind. During this walkabout we met some of our fellow tourers; Jenny West (she wrote "the Windmills of Kent") a delightful lady who introduced us to Jim, the owner of Shipley Windmill made famous by the Jonathon Creek TV series. We also met the renowned Mildred Cookson, Chairperson of the mill section committee.

Another hour, another mill, this time it was Hickling Mill. Huge and not far from what was the largest mill in England - Sutton Mill. (Moulton Windmill is now the largest). Built in 1818 with 7 floors it stands majestically aloof in the middle of



"He offered to sell us the mill for £200,000"

fields, forlorn and stripped of its sails and fantail. There was some interesting graffiti both inside and out and from many different periods - "I thought I was in heaven but it was 1957" caught our eye! There was an unusual sack hoist employing a cone clutch system operated by lever which reminded me that we need to build a new one for our mill.

"I thought I was in heaven but it was 1957"

There was also a hand cranked horizontal shaft device that not even Mr Pargeter could explain.

Last on the tour was Thrigby Post Mill. This is a partially reconstructed Mill using parts and equipment acquired from other mills. It sits on a mound in Nick and Maggie Prior's garden surrounded by trees and hedges. No fantail - it never had one. Tea and sticky buns in their low barn and Bob and I started chatting with Niall Roberts. Amazingly he described a visit and survey he carried out at our mill many years ago. (See article on back page)

Here the tour ended and we said our goodbyes having made some useful contacts. However on the way home we stopped at Denver Windmill with its large car park, car boot sale area, shops, cafe and even a 'steam room' - Trevithick not Turkish!

Well that's all folks, a good time helped along by fine weather, copious amounts of alcohol and a very warm welcome at all the mills.



rated and, on the 27th August 2004, Holgate Windmill Preservation Society became a Private Company Limited by Guarantee, Company Number 5217005. We are now arranging for the Company to become registered with the Charity Commissioners.

If any member wishes clarification of the above, or a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, please contact Brian Lambert on 01904 799295.

news round

Hoe Down and Dosey Doh . . .

On a cool September evening, English Martyr's Church Hall once again became the venue for our 2004 Barn Dance.

Byland Rig were back on stage and their caller had us forming up into circles, stars, lines and all the other permutations, practised by Barn Dancers. After walking us through each dance, they struck up and we tried hard to remember the steps!

There was a not inconsiderable amount of clashing and hilarious laughter, as some dancers developed two left feet, or totally lost the plot. The Raffle was drawn just before the second half, with Bob Anderton managing a table that initially groaned with prizes, and yours truly keeping good order via the microphone.

Then on to the second half. The music seemed to speed up, rather than slow down, as we danced the remaining time away. A number of "progressive" dances gave us the chance to repeatedly exchange partners, and socially mix with everyone in the room.

Flying the Flag.

The Society's Display Stand and Shop have featured at a number of local gatherings, this year. Fun in the Park, Family History events and School Fairs have all brought the opportunity to promote our cause to York residents. Also we have raised an honest bob or three, for our coffers.

The display banners which usually grace our Stand, were designed and commissioned by our Chairman, and funded from our LHF grant. This has brought us a strong, corporate identity, and has also encouraged residents to support us by making donations, buying "shop" items or even joining our Society!

The purchase of a gazebo tent has also helped us remain weatherproof, at open air gatherings!

Our participation in these events demonstrates our willingness, to fundraise for ourselves. It will provide useful supporting evidence for our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, and subsequently to Grant-making Trusts and Companies, whom we approach for support.

by Paul Hepworth - Committee member

Society becomes a Limited Company by Brian Lambert

The Committee has, for several months, been taking advice from Rollits solicitors regarding the advantages of the Society becoming an Incorporated Charity.

We were advised that an unincorporated charity has no independent legal existence; the trustees are responsible for their acts as trustees and for entering into contracts on behalf of the charity. A trustee may be personally liable if he entered into a contract on behalf of an unincorporated charity and the charity fails to honour its obligations under that contract.

For a company to be charitable it cannot allow distribution among its members, as this would confer a private benefit among the members. For this reason, the majority of charitable companies are limited by guarantee as opposed to being limited by shares. The constitution of a charitable company limited by guarantee is its Memorandum and Articles of Association. It has its own legal identity and can therefore enter into contracts, hold property and sue and be sued.

By becoming incorporated, the Society would have a legal identity; the members would have limited liability; the directors' (i.e. the committees') personal liability for debts of the charitable company are limited; the Society would have a more democratic structure; and enjoy wider and more flexible powers.

Having taken this advice on board the committee decided to apply to the Registrar of Companies for the Society to become incorpo-

Howsham Water Mill

The society has been contacted by Dave Mann from The Renewable Heritage Trust who is hoping to raise funds to restore Howsham Water Mill.

Dave is keen to find out any information on the mill, so if any members can help he can be contacted at:-
2 Sudniction Croft, Westow, York YO60 7NB

email:- momacleodmann@yahoo.co.uk