



MILL BITS

The Newsletter of the CRANBROOK WINDMILL ASSOCIATION

March 2022

Chairman: Nick Vinall, Secretary: Andrew Riddell, Treasurer: Peter Bourne

DATES for your DIARY

The Committee met in early February and decided:

**Mill to re-open to the public on
Saturday, 9th April, 2022 at 2:30pm**

Prior to that we will all need to brush up our
knowledge of the mill so there will be a

**Refresher Session for Volunteers on
Saturday 2nd April, at 2:30pm.**

But before that:

Mill Cleaning took place on Saturday 5th March

What 'ave we 'ere? >>



Eye(s) in the Sky

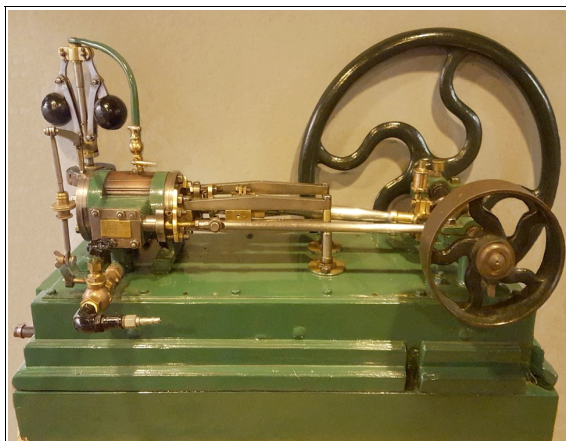
Following the Trumpet Ceremony (or Bugle Call) last August, Nick Vinall compiled a video of the proceedings and uploaded it to [Youtube](#); it runs for about 6 mins.



Were you in the crowd gathering at bottom right?

Hawkeye Media, the Maidstone company, whose drone filmed much of that video, subsequently made an [Aerial Video Tour of Cranbrook around the Mill](#) so you can now take a more extensive "Flight" around the mill. They added a few Information points that can be clicked to take you to the websites of St.Dunstan's church, Cranbrook School, and the Windmill. The view can be rotated on screen and zoomed in and out. It's a large file so it might take a while to download, depending on your internet connection.

Caleb's Steam Engine – Update on report in Autumn 2019 edition of Mill Blts



When the 1871 Census was taken, the Union Mill was managed by Ebenezer Russell. His eldest son, Caleb Oyler, was still a young man of 17, working for his father. However, he clearly had an engineering bent and built a small steam engine to power light machinery in the mill's workshop. This engine was still there when the mill ceased business in 1958, and it was sold to the miller at Cross in Hand Windmill, East Sussex. It turned up on eBay a few years ago and was bought by Matt Yeoman and his father, who are steam engine enthusiasts. Matt loaned

it to us and it was on display at the mill for one season before we had to close the mill to the public due to Covid. However, he decided the engine really belonged in Cranbrook and has sold it to our Association. It's now (temporarily) set up on the ground floor of the mill. You can watch a short video of it working (powered by compressed air) [HERE](#).

Progress at the Millwrights

From time to time, Luke Bonwick of KCC has sent us photos of the work being done on our new sweeps at the Suffolk workshops of Tim Whiting.



Preparing the stocks



Ready for the shutters

Wheels of Time - Spot The Difference

The Wheels of Time scheme for youngsters is still running and 5 more venues will be joining the scheme this year to make 53 altogether. I thought it was time to change the image on our [Wheels of Time webpage](#) and use a line drawing by Vincent Lines - suggested by Peter Bourne. This is perhaps a little more challenging so some adults might find it useful to pass a few minutes if rain prevents them from working in the garden.



Pre-Season Tea

A tea was organised in the Russell Building to celebrate our return to “business as usual” but sadly, a number of members declined the invitation due to a recent surge locally in the number of cases of Covid in the area lately. Those attending included three new recruits and all were entertained with the video of the Bugle Call mentioned above. An excellent buffet was provided by Susan and the team and afterwards, a few went to view our smart looking mill. (Photo: Ian Burrows)



A Windmill with a difference



The editor recently bought a second-hand printer on eBay and when the old ink cartridge was taken out, he discovered a 25cent Barbados coin inside – similar in size to our 10p coin – which had a windmill design on it.

<< Barbados Twenty Five Cent coin

It depicts the Morgan Lewis sugar mill, the last working mill to operate on the island and which is owned by the Barbados National Trust. In 1996, it was restored to working condition and is now a museum of the sugar cane milling industry. Just as we sell flour, ground by our stones, this mill grinds sugar cane to provide cane juice for its visitors on one Sunday each month during the crop season.

The image right shows the fully renovated mill; you can find more information [online](#).

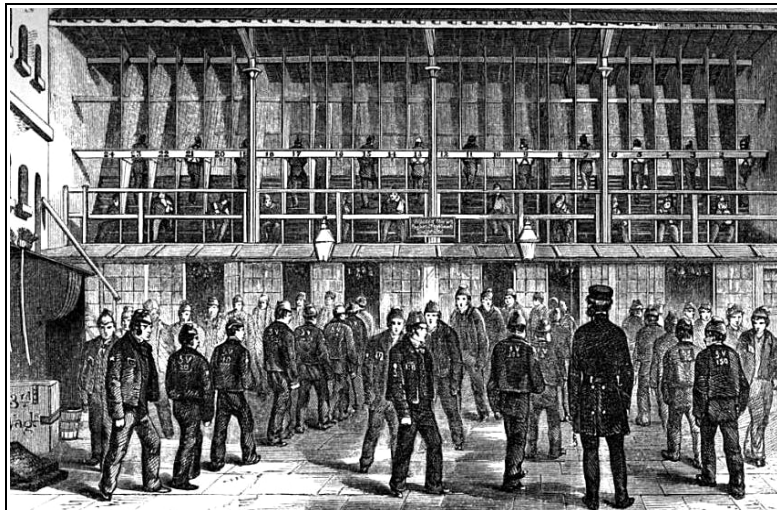
Imagine the editor's surprise to discover that a 2011 “collector's edition” of the 25cent coin was being sold on eBay for £1,150. His coin is dated 2008 unfortunately.



What the Papers Said

Kentish Weekly Post & Canterbury Journal, 10 Feb 1824

Tread Mill in the County Prison, Maidstone – ... the Tread-mill in the County Prison, which has just been completed under the superintendence of Mr. Cubitt, the original inventor of this species of discipline, at an expense of nearly £3000, was first put in motion. There are distinct shafts, all communicating with the grand wheel, of the following dimensions: - two 25ft, two 20ft, and four 16ft in length, making together 154ft; which, allowing 18in to every man while at work, are capable of containing about 100 persons at the same time. A spacious mill has been built to grind and dress the corn, capable for the working of 3 pair of stones, which will grind 12 bushels an hour, or 18quarters of wheat every day, Only two pair of stones are at present completed. The mill, together with the whole of the machinery attached to it, is considered to be the most perfect and complete building of the kind in the whole kingdom. A Penal Tread-mill >>



The engineer referred to in the above report is [William Cubitt](#), who invented the patent shutters for windmills. He went on to a prominent career in engineering for which he was awarded a knighthood in 1851. His last major project was acting as the chief engineer for the building of Crystal Palace, erected originally at Hyde Park in 1851 to house the Great Exhibition.

Some examples of offenders sentenced to the Treadmill

In August 1827, a man was committed to the prison to serve fourteen days on the tread-mill for begging in the streets of Maidstone and in May 1829, an apprentice to a painter in Maidstone, was sentenced to the tread-mill for seven days by the Mayor for refusing to work and using abusive language to his master.

Just when the economy was at its lowest ebb, milling by treadmill with renewable human muscle power would not have been welcomed by millers who were totally reliant on wind power.

Old Cambridgeshire rhyme: (Riddle)

Father, Mother, Sister, Brother,
We run all day,
Can't catch each other,
Who are we?

Final Bits

For newer members of the Association, you can read and print off back copies of Mill Bits by visiting <http://www.unionmill.org.uk/MillBits.htm>

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