

S.P.A.B.

This is what started it!

## OUR VANISHING WINDMILLS.

HOW YOU CAN HELP TO SAVE THEM.

KEEPING ENGLAND PICTURESQUE.

Lovers of the picturesque old windmills which are rapidly disappearing from the countryside are given the opportunity of helping to save them.

An official of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings told a *Daily Mail* reporter on Saturday:

Unless some action is taken we shall soon be without windmills. The beautiful specimen at Rottingdean, Sussex, has been bought by the parish, after this organisation had been consulted. Another one that has been made safe for the future is a very fine specimen at Reigate Heath, Surrey.

Unfortunately it is possible for a remote windmill to be pulled down before anyone in London or any keen local antiquarian hears anything about it. If anyone hears that a windmill is in danger he should make it known to local people interested in such things, and let us have the news of it together with a photograph.

We should be grateful for photographs of all interesting windmills still standing, whether they are in immediate danger or not.

The Daily Mail.

17-6-29.

The Times.

14-8-29.

## WINDMILLS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—The preservation of our ancient windmills is a matter of interest and importance. Before many years pass none of these ancient structures will be left, "sticking up their ears out of the countryside like donkeys," as Stevenson quaintly described them, unless action is soon taken. In this respect my committee is grateful to you for opening your correspondence columns to a discussion on windmills. Some county archaeological societies are making efforts to secure their preservation, although faced with the difficulty of finding funds for their purchase and maintenance. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, wishing to take its part in this work, is anxious to compile a record of windmills existing in this country before it is too late; and with the knowledge thus gained to raise a fund for the preservation of a chosen few. Any information on particular windmills or any financial assistance which your readers could give the society would therefore be very useful in accomplishing these purposes.

Yours faithfully,

A. R. POWYS, Secretary.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 20, Buckingham-street, Adelphi, W.C.2, Aug. 12.

Typical of many letters sent to the press.

Subscriptions are being raised to save for the nation the picturesque old windmills shown in these *Evening News* photographs. The inset photograph is of Mr. A. R. Powys, secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, which is playing an important part in the salvation.

Evening News

22-6-29.



CHESTERTON WINDMILL, WARWICKSHIRE.

## To Save the Windmills.

One need not be a sentimentalist, a devotee of "the lower picturesque," a reactionary, a poor creature with spiders in the ceiling or (as Sancho Panza would put it) windmills in the head, to wish, with a correspondent whose letter was published the other day, that something could be done to save such windmills, in Sussex or elsewhere, as are left. It may be too much to hope that the windmill can be restored to use as a practical and paying machine for grinding corn. For six centuries after the Crusaders, as the legend says, brought this with many another excellent notion back from the East, the windmill had only its older brother, the watermill, for competitor. But its hours were numbered when, in the reign of KING GEORGE III., a London mill was fitted with steam-power. And then the roller was found to be cheaper than the millstone; and now even the pumping of water is done better by the American type of mill with annular sails, of which no one ever thinks as being really a windmill. For the horse, the handloom, and some other interesting survivals it is claimed that they can still do certain things which all the smug regularity and precision of their supplanters cannot do. No such claim can be made for the windmill. With a power so uncertain as the wind, and with means so simple, as the stones, it needs no knight errant to fester his spear and come on at a great wallop against so effete a race of giants. It is rather the brisk mechanical moderns of which some Quixotes might think it "lawful prize and doing God good" service to take away so wicked a generation "from off the face of the earth."

Grinding corn, however, was never the whole duty of a windmill. Its first office was to please the child in every truly human being by letting its sails go round. Its second office was to be good to look at. But what makes a windmill good or bad to look at? It was from two windmills—a windmill in Brittany drawn by CLARKSON STANFIELD and a windmill at Hanwell drawn by TURNER—that young Mr. RUSKIN drew one of his most famous principles. His point was that STANFIELD'S mill was not so good to look at as TURNER'S because it could not work so well. From that RUSKIN went on to explain that it was poor work for the wind to turn mill sails "for mere food's sake," while it might be bringing up clouds or fanning flowers. With the wind's feelings we need not concern ourselves; it is the feelings of windmills that are to be considered. And they are not pernicky. They will not mind being museum pieces, and performing in the cause of the picturesque and the antique the functions which they used to perform for the homelier needs of men. Any self-respecting windmill would rather grind corn for show than serve as week-end cottage to a townsman; and no well-disposed millstone is happy in the crazy pavement of a villa garden. If the windmills that are left could be made beautiful with the Turnerian, not the Stanfieldian, beauty, if they could be so preserved that their sails would go round and their tops or bodies turn into the wind, a prominent feature of the older England would be maintained. And Sussex, which had the first and still has some of the best in the country, might well lead the way.

The Times.

3-8-29.

27-8-29.

## WINDMILLS

### TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—While cordially supporting the general desire for the preservation of old windmills from the point of view of amenities, I venture to raise the question whether those old mills which are not past repair may not again be brought into profitable use. There is a steadily growing demand for wholemeal bread and for the flour which used to be produced by these mills before the most deplorable fashion obtained of carrying the refinement of flour to that extreme extent which deprives it of its most nourishing and health-giving qualities.

The beauty and delicacy of modern flour-milling machinery commands the admiration of engineers, but is it not remarkable that such skill is expended in removing all the most valuable constituents of the staple food of the country? That which is thus removed we call "offal," and we give it to the animals on our farms. They have the best of it! Modern research brings to light the fact that the health of the nation is being seriously affected by the habitual use of this ultra-refined vitaminless flour. With the power of wind, which costs nothing, with the omission of the useless and most undesirable refining processes, and with English wheat at its present price, surely a windmill ought to be able to work at a profit. If the village bakers would make a point of purchasing flour from the local mill, and of using such influence as they have in guiding their customers to a preference for the more palatable as well as for the more healthful home-ground flour, they would be doing a public service of great value.

Those of us who remember the days when all our bread was baked at home in the good old brick oven, from ordinary stone-ground flour, realize only too acutely the difference between the delicious cottage loaves we then used to enjoy and the comparatively tasteless, but very white, bread we are now usually compelled to eat. I should like to see some concerted steps taken to bring about the reinstatement of the old windmills, which incidentally might afford an opportunity of establishing a number of ex-Service men in a congenial and profitable occupation.

Your obedient servant,

MAYO.

Daily Express.

16-9-29.

## OLD METHODS CLOG PRODUCTION.

To the Editor of the "Daily Express."

Sir,—You have published a letter which ended with a plea for the preservation of windmills. This is typical of many letters which have appeared recently in the Press. Why not be thankful that antiquated methods of production are disappearing, and take a lesson from many successful American business men who scrap every piece of machinery, new or old, directly something more productive and less costly appears on the market?

Many people in dear old England seem to desire our navvies to be equipped with stone-hammers so as to preserve our ancestors' implements. Any one who is acquainted with the inner history of the milling trade during recent years knows that losses are heavy enough without adopting the luxury of slow, antiquated methods.

J. RAYMOND HARVEY.

Plymouth.

S.P.A.B.

See under  
Holland  
for report  
of this.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS  
& THE NATIONAL TRUST

ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6th, 1930, at 8 p.m.  
in the HALL of the ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS, JOHN  
STREET, ADELPHI, by kind permission of the Council

Mr. JAN den TEX  
Secretary of the Dutch Windmill Society  
will Lecture with Lantern Slides on  
WINDMILLS IN HOLLAND.

ALSO  
Mr. R. WAILES will speak on the DEVELOPMENT of the  
ENGLISH WINDMILL. Mr. A. R. POWYS, Secretary  
of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings,  
will take the Chair

Admit Member and a Friend

This  
idea  
was  
turned  
down  
by  
the  
S.P.A.B.

Folk Museums.

The appeal recently made for the Easington Folk-lore Museum recalls the report of the Royal Commission on Museums which stated truly that one of our greatest needs was a national folk museum.

Except for a few enlightened efforts at Easington and elsewhere we have nothing to display the intimacies of country life in the past, and the longer we wait the scarcer the various "useless" things which would furnish such a museum must become. The report favoured an open-air museum like the famous Stockholm "Skansen," where peasants' cottages and old farm and village buildings have been re-erected in a public park. All are fitted with the appropriate furniture and utensils, from spinning wheels to plates and spoons. There are two possible sites in London—the Botanic Gardens in Regent's Park, which will be vacant in 1932, and the 66 acres round Chiswick House, which is, however, rather inconveniently out of London. One of the buildings which it would certainly be necessary to include—if one can be found—is a tithe barn, such as the one at Easington, for there was no more typical (possibly detested) feature in English villages before the Tithe Apportionment Act at the beginning of last century.

There should also be water mills, windmills, old country fulling mills (though a doubt whether one still exists) smithies, inns. Such a museum would certainly be as fascinating as anything at South Kensington. In the meantime, we should see that the Easington Museum gets the £300 that it deserves.

Yorkshire  
Post.  
19-3-30.  
The Daily  
Mail.  
8-7-30.

WINDMILLS  
SAVED.

RESPONSE TO "DAILY  
MAIL" CALL.

How a survey of the old windmills of Britain was undertaken as the result of an article in *The Daily Mail* is described in the annual report of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

"Until June of last year," states the report, "the society had only taken a spasmodic interest in windmills." It proceeds:

But in June the secretary was approached by a *Daily Mail* representative and an article on windmills appeared in that paper. As a result, the society's office was inundated by correspondence and photographs of mills.

The society had been planning to start a survey of barns, but it was so obvious that the public were interested in windmills that the opportunity seemed too good to be missed.

During the course of the last year four windmills have been repaired and saved for the public. . . . The society has had some correspondence with Lord Willoughby de Broke, the owner of Chesterton Mill, in Warwickshire, which has recently been put in order. This is the oldest known structure serving as a windmill in Great Britain. It seems probable that it was built in 1632 from designs by Inigo Jones as an observatory for Sir Edward Peto, and was only converted into a windmill at a later date.

The report adds that windmillers have undoubtedly come on hard times, being unable to make the specially graded flour universally demanded for white bread. Their trade now consists of grinding animal foods, and, in a few cases, of making wholemeal flour.

# WINDMILLS OF GREAT BRITAIN



*By permission of the 'Architects' Journal.'*

**Chesterton Mill, Warwickshire.**

**THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS**



*Photo. Miss Ballen.*

**Outwood Post Mill, Surrey.**



*By permission of the 'Architects' Journal.'*

**Potter Mill, near Swinderby, Lincs.**



*Photo. Mr. Rex Wallis.*

**Sibsey Mill, Lincs.**



*'By permission of the 'Architects' Journal.'*

**Cranbrook Mill, Kent.**  
(Built in 1814 by Henry Dobell.)

**I**N the summer of 1929 the Society started a campaign for the preservation of windmills. These structures have been of great importance to this country since the thirteenth century, but unless some organized effort is made to save them nearly all will soon have disappeared. Windmills are of interest both historically and mechanically, besides adding to the rural beauty of the countryside.

The Society intends to make a record with photographs of all the windmills still standing in Great Britain. When this is complete, it is hoped to publish it in book-form. The Society also wishes to raise a fund so that a few carefully selected mills

in different parts of the country may be bought, repaired, and maintained as interesting monuments. Unfortunately, although the Society has appealed for assistance in many newspapers, very little money has been received. Millers, local residents and societies frequently write to S.P.A.B. asking for financial assistance to save their windmills, but so far the Society has always had to say that it can do nothing to assist them.

The record of windmills in Warwickshire and Cambridgeshire has already been completed, and several other counties are almost finished. Compiling a correct record of all the mills in Great Britain is no small task, and any information or photographs



*By permission of 'Country Life.'*

**Post Mill, Stokenchurch, Oxon, now destroyed.**

will help the Society considerably in its work. But, above all, it is funds that are wanted for while the Society has no money it cannot really do anything to save the windmills.

Subscriptions and information should be sent to the

**Windmill Secretary,  
The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings,  
20, Buckingham Street,  
London, W.C.2.**

## HERTFORDSHIRE WINDMILLS.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—The matter of the preservation of our picturesque windmill's is one of urgency, before time, weather, and man have, between them, completely effected their extinction.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is making a record of existing windmills, while such yet stand to tell the tale. This record is being compiled by counties. We would, therefore, be very grateful if any of your readers could supply us with any information relating to the windmills of Hertfordshire, such as locality, the name of the owner, the type of the mill (post, tower, smock, etc.), the date of construction, the state of preservation, and any items of interest and history associated with them. Such information, accompanied, if possible, by photographs, would be of very great assistance, and would considerably mitigate the work of the Society in a matter which is of national importance, if any of our picturesque rural amenities are to be preserved.—Yours faithfully,

E. H. GLOVER

(Hon. Windmill Secretary, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.)  
20 Buckingham Street,  
London, W.C. 2.

ENGLISH WINDMILLS. VOLUME I. Containing a History of their Origin and Development, with records of mills in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. By M. I. BATTEN, on behalf of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. 7 1/2 x 5, xviii. 128 pp. Architectural Press. 5s. 6d. n.

If we cannot, save in a few isolated cases, preserve the windmills which for so long have been part of the economic history and of the landscape beauty of England, the next best thing is to put on record their features while examples still remain. This is being excellently done by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, in a survey of which the first instalment, by Mr. M. I. Batten, comprises the existing mills of Kent, Surrey and Sussex. The book is compact and comprehensive; it contains maps of the three counties, in which every surviving specimen is marked, with a notation which indicates the type of each—"post," "smock" or "tower"—and its present condition of serviceableness or decay; more than eighty photographs of standing examples and of early illustrations from manuscripts; a general account of the history, design and action of mill-machinery; and brief notes on the origin, build and present condition of the existing mills. These notes make sad reading. Of the sixty-eight windmills now standing in Kent, the eleven in Surrey and the sixty-nine in Sussex, only fourteen, one and seven respectively are working to-day. It is a continuous story of closing down, of substitution of steam or gas for wind-power, of destruction by time, gales or fire. A considerable number have been turned into dwelling-houses; a few are preserved as mere monuments by the owners; the majority of derelict mills are breaking up under stress of weather. The rapidity of the process may frustrate the researches of even so careful an inquirer as Mr. Batten; examples such as the post mills standing within living memory at Selsfield Common and between Eastbourne Old Town and Willington seem to have vanished without a trace. In the very interesting note on the vexed question of the origin and date of the first European windmills they are said to have been unknown in Italy in the fourteenth century; but Dante's reference to the "mulin che il vento gira" in the thirty-fourth canto of the *Inferno* seems to imply that they were fairly common objects circa 1300.

Hertford  
Mercury.  
19-12-30.

The Sphere  
3-1-31.

The Times.  
5-2-31.



A MODEL OF THE CRANBROOK MILL: The miniature made by Mr. Tarrant, a specialist in such work, for the Science Museum

In the summer of 1929 the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings inaugurated a campaign for the preservation of windmills, those great giants against which the creation of Cervantes shattered his ineffectual lance. Now the quixotism is on the other side, and the lances are far from ineffectual, for the ugliness of the industrial civilization is inducing many classes to assail its products for a variety of motives. Since the thirteenth century these structures, with their gyrating sweeps or sails, have been of great importance but, without some such organized effort as this, the huge majority of them will, in a few years, be no more. Mechanically as historically the mill is a thing of interest; aesthetically it is a thing of beauty. The Society intends to make a record with photographs of all the windmills still standing in Great Britain. Compiling a correct record of all the mills in Great Britain is no small task, and any information or photographs will help the Society considerably in its work. The Architectural Press has published on behalf of the S.P.A.B. a fascinating first volume, by Miss M. I. Batten, of a series entitled *English Windmills*. This deals with the history and mechanics of mills in general and those of the Home Counties—Kent, Surrey, and Sussex—in particular. Later they will deal with Lincolnshire, which, with its almost Dutch flats and its dykes, is pre-eminently the windmill county with its examples ranging from the great "modern" mill of Trusthorpe to the dilapidated and shattered structure of Maltby. The millers' jargon varies from county to county, for the sails in Kent and Sussex are "sweeps," in Anglesey "wings," and in Yorkshire "arms." In Holland a great effort is being successfully made to preserve the

Many such letters were sent to the press all over the country

S.P.A.B.



AN EXPERT ON WINDMILLS: Miss Marjorie Batten has just published, on behalf of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings, an excellent first volume on the Windmills of this country.



An old windmill, which is to be pulled down because motorists have complained that it misleads them by giving contradictory road-signals.

Ben chamber

The Sphere.  
21-3-31.

The Times.  
23-6-31.

Colour.  
October 1931

Daily Express  
25-2-31.

### VANISHING WINDMILLS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings regrets the rapid disappearance of the English windmills, which for more than 700 years have played an important part in the life of the countryside. The trade of the windmill is dying fast; profits, if any, are small, repairs are costly, and every year many mills are forced to cease work. When it is no longer in use, a windmill is seldom repaired but is pulled down or merely decays.

Before windmills have become no more than a memory the society is making an organized effort on their behalf and has appointed a special committee to deal with this work. Among the members of the committee are Lord Northbourne, Lord Darling, Miss Batten, Mr. S. P. B. Mais, Mr. Basil Oliver, Mr. H. P. Vowles, and Mr. Rex Wailes. The objects of the committee are to make a survey of all windmills still standing in the British Isles; the publication of this record in book form; and the repair and preservation of certain selected mills. These objects cannot be attained with the small sum of money at present at the disposal of the Windmill Committee, and this appeal is addressed to those who take pleasure in these romantic landmarks.

Your obedient servant,

A. R. POWYS, Chairman of Windmill Committee.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 20, Buckingham-street, Adelphi, W.C.2.

### Art Notes

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is hoping to arrange an exhibition of Windmill pictures in the spring. The Windmill Committee would be glad to receive information as to the whereabouts of any pictures dealing with this subject. The exhibition will consist of pictures by English artists only and will include room for the works of twentieth century artists. The standard of modern works exhibited is that of pictures which have been engraved. Information should be sent to the Windmill Secretary, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 20, Buckingham Street, W.C.2.

This was a brick on Pud's part



# WINDMILLS OF GREAT BRITAIN

The Society for the  
Protection of Ancient Buildings.



By courtesy of *The Sphere*.

Wellingore Mill, Lincolnshire.



By courtesy of the *Architects' Journal*.

**Haverhill Mill, Suffolk.**



**Blackboys Mill, Sussex.**

**I**N describing a typical English landscape Robert Louis Stevenson wrote thus: "There are, indeed, few merrier spectacles than that of many windmills bickering together in a fresh breeze over a woody country; their halting alacrity of movement, their pleasant business, making bread all day with uncouth gesticulations, their air, gigantically human, as of a creature half alive, put a spirit of romance into the tamest landscape."

To-day, in most parts of England, it is an uncommon sight to see a windmill "under sail." The mills falling into disuse are seldom repaired, and are either pulled down or disappear through natural forces.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings would much regret the total disappearance of the windmills of England, which, in former times, played so important a part in the life of the countryside. In 1929 the Society started an active campaign on their behalf, the objects being:

- To make a survey of all the windmills still standing in the British Isles.
- The publication of these records in book form.
- The repair and preservation of certain selected mills.

During the past two years the Society has finished the survey of twelve counties, and several more are nearing completion. The first volume of the series of books on English Windmills, which treats of the counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex, has been written, on behalf of the Society, by Miss M. I. Batten, and published by the Architectural Press (price 5/6). This book will be followed by a similar one describing the Mills north of London, which will appear in the Autumn.

Arkley Mill in Hertfordshire, the property of Mr. Booth, and Stansted Mill in Essex, the property of Lord Blyth, have been repaired and preserved as landmarks. Mr. Rex Wailes superintended the work for the Society and for the owners, the cost being paid by the owners.

Haverhill Mill in Suffolk, the only windmill in the country to have an iron wheel with vanes in it instead of the usual sails, was in a bad state of repair and in danger of being pulled down. Members of the Society, by guaranteeing a certain sum of money to the miller, have enabled him to complete the necessary repairs, and the mill is once more at work.

S.P.A.B. is now trying to raise sufficient money to give a new pair of sails to the mill at Outwood in Surrey. This is the oldest dated mill known in England, it was built in 1665, and is still working. A few years ago two of the sails became rotten and had to be taken down, and the miller could not afford to replace them.

The work of the Society is seriously hampered through lack of funds. Millers, local residents and Societies frequently write to S.P.A.B. for financial assistance to save their windmills, but it is seldom that the Society can give the help that they require.

The windmill survey necessarily entails expense, and the cost of the preparation for the press of the Society's book on English Windmills amounts to a considerable sum.

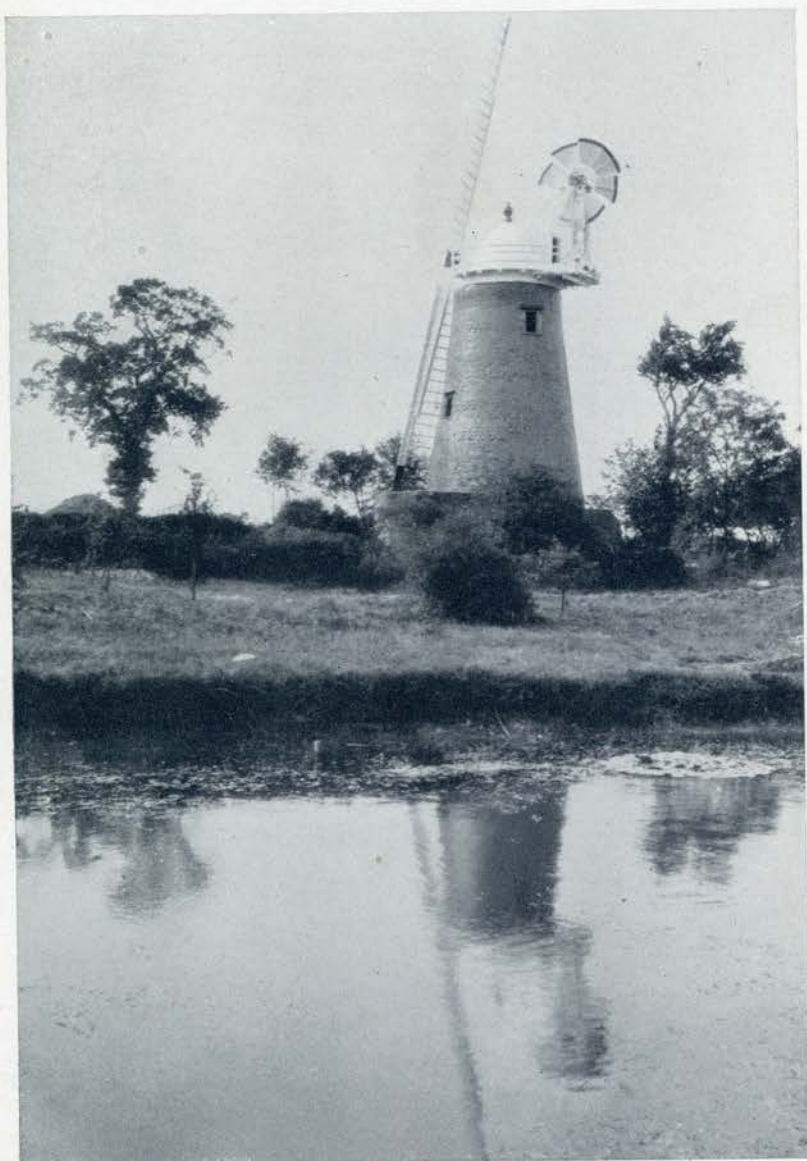
Unless funds are forthcoming no further volumes of the series will be published, and the Society will have to abandon its intention to repair and preserve mills which are of special interest and beauty.

Subscriptions, however small, will be gratefully received by the

**Windmill Secretary,  
The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings,  
20, Buckingham Street,**

**London, W.C. 2.**

JUNE 1, 1931.



Photo, Mr. Rex Wailes.

**Arkley Mill, Herts, 1930, as repaired by Messrs. Hunt Bros., Soham.**

# THE WIND- MILLS of ENGLAND

BAYLY: But here is a mill, sir; will you make a note of it on your plot?

SURVEYOR: In any case—for it is not the least ornament of a manor . . . a well-conditioned and a well-wrought mill.

John Norden: *The Surveyor's Daughter* (1607).

The saving of Bourn Mill, Cambridge, by the Cambridge Preservation Society has again drawn attention to the good work which is being done in several quarters to maintain our old windmills wherever possible, and certainly to stem that tide of destruction which swept against the mills in Victorian times. To what a great extent demolition had been going on can be gathered from the interesting pages of the second volume on English windmills just published by the Architectural Press.

The first volume dealt with Kent, Surrey, and Sussex: this new volume gives us highly interesting details of windmills in Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, and London. Mr. Donald Smith has prepared the work on behalf of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, who have so actively interested themselves in this good work. London itself has always had its share of windmills, and may, indeed, hold claim to the first reference in English literature to a windmill, one Jordan Brisel giving unto the Priory of Clerkenwell "one piece of ground thereby to build a windmill upon. . . ." At the present time there are mills, or remains of mills, to be seen at Brixton, Wandsworth, Wimbledon, Plumstead, Islington, and Rosebery Avenue. Nothing remains of the windmill which Falstaff wished to forget.

SHALLOW: Oh, Sir John, do you remember since we lay all night in the windmill on St. George's Fields?

FALSTAFF: No more of that, good Master Shallow.

The county of Essex could once boast of having 212 mills: in 1886 it had 140 working; in 1908 only 49 working; in 1917 the number had fallen to 24. There are now, according to Mr. Donald Smith, 14 in working or partly working order. There was a great destruction of windmills in the twenty years between 1870 and 1890, no fewer than 46 mills being taken down within a radius of ten miles from Romford. None of these mills remain.

The Sphere.  
9-7-32.

It is very entertaining to follow the author through his historical and domestic notes concerning the various post, smock, and towers mills in the counties dealt with. Under Billericay we read of the corpulent miller who cured his obesity with a diet of mashed sea biscuits; we learn that millers were not allowed to keep swine or ducks for fear they should feed them on grain which really belonged to their obligatory customers; that Long Meg of Westminster had a brush with a miller of Epping and that she succeeded in slipping a sack over him in the manner of a straight jacket and hauled him up skywards by his own sack rope.

The lingering need for the old paternal regulations of the sale of corn was ended when the system of sale by factorage was established, and this system, as well as the supply of flour, had its origin in the rich cornlands of Essex. Tradition has it, we are told, that it began with a number of Essex farmers, who used to leave samples of corn with the landlord of an inn at Whitechapel where they put up, and to whom they paid commission to save the trouble of attending the market every week.

Some of the illustrations given here are from the collection of Mr. Rex Wailes.

## Letters to an Exile.

### A Wind-Millionaire Wanted.

DEAR ROONA,—The other day I saw a most glorious sight. I saw the very white sails of a very white windmill high on a hill, with the sun on it, going merrily round and round against a dark grey thunder-cloud. This is treat enough for sore eyes, especially at a time when so many of our windmills are forlorn ruins or have been perverted into week-end residences; but to me it was a doubly joyful revelation, because the last time I had seen this mill, which is at Cross-in-Hand in Sussex, it was dejected and grey, with only three sails, and in my mind I had naturally numbered it with the dead. To-day, however, thanks to help from that admirable organisation, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, the stones grind once more, and I hope that the farmers of the neighbourhood will play the game and see that they are kept busy.

I had known that the Society, whose beneficent imaginative handiwork is to be seen all over England, preserved ancient façades, restored churches and saved bridges, but it was news that it is so practical as to come also to the assistance of trade—or whatever milling should be called. No, not trade—poetry and romance.

Punch.  
13-9-33.

S.P.A.B.

Sussex has an ample share of disused windmills, but if you would see them in closer profusion you should take the road from Dol to St. Malo, where they stand like Martello towers in Kent and equally out of action. Indeed throughout North Brittany there is hardly a sail left, which, considering how primitive still are most of the agricultural processes there, is surprising. But steam, I suppose, has conquered and the grain goes to the tall chimneys.

What, I always wonder when I see a forsaken windmill or watermill, are those who ought to be in charge doing? All the sagacity and quiet energy that we associate with millers—what has become of them? Where are they now to be found, or have they been carried away by wind and water? You remember the father of TENNYSON'S "Miller's Daughter"—a water-miller? You remember "his double chin, his portly size, the busy wrinkles round his eyes, the slow wise smile that round about his dusty forehead drily curl'd"? You remember how he sat in the easy-chair with three fingers round the old silver cup, with his grey eyes twinkling at his own jest? The miller of the Dee, with his glorious isolation—"I care for nobody, no, not I, and nobody cares for me"—was a water-miller too; but I am sure that there were equally independent wind-millers; indeed more so, for their very situation conferred an aloofness almost as of the sea. It is a tragedy that these attributes should be lost; for lost they must be, since one cannot see men of such character taking service in purely mechanical works in a town, where smouldering coal usurps the place of the brave sou'-wester and the swift gliding stream.

What, then, do erstwhile millers do? That they should have ceased to be must be a national loss. "What are you doing with your son?" "He's going to be a miller"—that is an incredible scrap of dialogue to-day.

But could it not be brought back? What are our millionaires doing with their money? Let one of them revivify our windmills and reinstate the fine flower (note how carefully I write "flower") of the millers' quality. "Millers, you should be with us at this day; England hath need of you." If I were very rich I should certainly see that the sails went round again. Even as it is, I have my eye on a certain windmill that merely needs repainting.

Yours, E. V. L.

Punch.

13-9-33.

← Evening News.

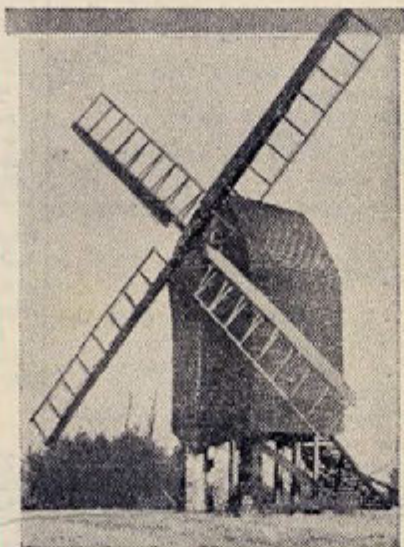
16-6-33. →

## PICTURESQUE LANDMARKS THAT WILL BE PRESERVED

### SUSSEX SURVIVALS

A report on old English windmills has just been prepared by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and it is pleasant to learn that the preservation of these picturesque relics is being taken up with such public spirit.

During the past year the condition of twenty-five old mills has been considered by the Windmill Section of the



Nutley Mill, Sussex, after repair.

society, and Mr. Rex Wailes, its expert, has visited and reported upon nearly all of them; while local committees are being set up in many districts to raise funds to make the necessary repairs.

There has been special activity (writes an *Evening News* representative) in Sussex, Essex, Suffolk and Bucks. Thirteen mills are being tackled in these counties.

#### Romantic Names

The very names of these old mills have a romantic sound.

In Sussex there are Cross-in-Hand, Bodle Street Green, Blackboys, Nutley, Chailey, and Littlehampton.

There are the three "H's" in Suffolk—Hartest, Haverhill, and Horham.

In Essex there are Moreton and Thaxted mills, and Pitstone Green and Bledlow Ridge in Buckinghamshire.

The Cross-in-Hand, which is now working all its four sails again, is an old post-mill that was originally set up at Uckfield and shifted to its present locality 83 years ago, though it stood for a time in a field on the opposite side of the road from that now occupied.

#### The Centre of Sussex

Chailey Mill, the work upon which is now beginning, is an outstanding Sussex landmark that marks the very centre of the county. It stands in the grounds of the Heritage Craft Schools, and is being thoroughly restored for the needs of the schools, the founder of which (Mrs. Kimmins) has raised £1,000 for the purpose.

by Castle Stewart, on whose pro-  
perty the old Nutley Mill stands, has  
conditioned this relic entirely, and  
has saved a prominent feature of the  
Sussex landscape. It stands conspicu-  
ously on a ridge overlooking Ashdown  
Forest.

Moreton Mill (in Essex), which the  
owners have offered to present to the  
county for preservation, is a post-mill of  
an unusual character, and only five mills  
are known to have been constructed to  
this design. Of these Moreton is the  
best preserved, and a committee is now  
raising money to put it in thorough  
repair.

#### ***When the Armada Came***

Further afield there is the Burton  
Bassett mill in Warwickshire, in the  
preservation of which Lord Willoughby  
de Broke has taken an active interest.

This mill is believed to date back to  
1664, and is probably the second oldest  
post mill in the country.

In the immediate neighbourhood of  
the mill is an old stone tower which  
was used as one of the chain of beacon  
signals that conveyed news of the ap-  
proach of the Armada.

Evening News  
16-6-33.

