



**SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL
ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY**
incorporating SUSSEX MILLS GROUP

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Summer Programme 1998.

Saturday 25th April: South East Region Industrial Archaeology conference. (SERIAC) Theme - 'Secret Britain'. Meet at the Princes Hall, Aldershot at 10.00am. Contact Ron Martin 01273 271330.

Sunday 10th May: National Mills Day. Support needed for events at your local mill. Contact Don Cox 01403 711137.

Saturday 16th May: Visit to Vallenge Aircraft Collection and Lowfield Heath Windmill. Meet at the Vallenge Collection 11.30 am. Contact Ted Henbury 01293 406132.

Saturday 20th June: 2.30p.m. Visit to Dungeness Power Station. Meet in Visitors Car Park. Tour takes about 1½ hours. Contact Pat Bracher 01273 813902

Saturday 27th June. from 11-00 am. Lowfield Mill Special Open Day to view the restoration progress. Details from Peter James. 01293 409845.

Saturday 18th July: Members Meeting at Amberley Museum. Contact Bob Allen 01323 896724 before July 10th.

Details of Events

20th June, 2.30p.m. Visit to Dungeness Power Station

Meet in Visitors Car Park. Tour takes about 1½ hours and there is also a Visitors Centre to see. Hard hats are provided. Please wear sensible shoes as there is a lot of walking and there are stairs to climb. Children under 5 are not admitted to the tour.

No hand luggage is allowed. This includes ladies handbags which can be stored safely at the Centre if required. Cameras may be used but not camcorders and please do not bring mobile phones.

The Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway terminates a few minutes walk from the Power Station, in June there is one train every hour arriving at Dungeness at 35 minutes past the hour.

Just by the railway station is a magnificent lighthouse, now disused. Admission £2 or £1 concession.

Bird watchers are advised to bring binoculars.

Contact Pat Bracher 01273 813902.

Heritage Award For Poyntz Bridge

Your Chairman had the pleasure of receiving a Heritage Award (an inscribed plaque to be mounted on the bridge) from the Mayor of the City of Chichester, at a ceremony in the Assembly Room on 18th February. The award marked the restoration of the swing bridge, on the Chichester Canal, to working order by Society members.

The project was started in 1982 when the bridge, originally sited at Hunston, a mile downstream, and used for farm access, was replaced. Alan Alnutt, the Society's then West Sussex Secretary found that it was in a poor state of repair, with the inner two cast iron span beams broken and the pivot bearing rusted away. With generous financial help, particularly from West Sussex County Council by 1989 the broken spans had been replaced using

modern steelwork and the bridge framework refurbished. Following Alan's death the project was taken on by Chris Bryan. For the pivot bearing, 4' diameter steel balls were donated by F. J. Brindley & Sons of Sheffield. These balls are hand forged and used in ball grinding mills in the chemical and paint industries. The balls were set in a 42" steel ring which was fabricated using the original remains as the basis for a pattern. In July 1997 the counterbalance weights were fitted between the two new span girders beneath the bridge decking and the whole craned on to its bearing of 30 new balls.

In his acceptance speech your Chairman paid tribute to the skill, dedication, and enthusiasm of the many volunteers without which the project could not have been so successful. He also hoped that our restoration would inaugurate a heritage area around the canal basin and suggested the use of a contemporary, but currently boarded up building, which could be used as an information centre.

Poyntz Bridge was one of a series of cast iron hand operated swing bridges which spanned the Chichester Canal between the Southgate basin and Chichester Harbour. They were named after supporters of the canal scheme hence Casher, Crosbie, Cutfield, Dudley, Egremont and Poyntz. W. S. Poyntz (1770 - 1840) married the sister of the 8th Viscount Montague, lived at Cowdray House, Midhurst, and was MP for Chichester in 1826. The bridge was cast in 1820 by the Southampton firm of C. H. Tickell, about which little is known other than it was set up in 1810 by Charles Tickell, with considerable help from his mother. The foundry was advertised for sale by Joseph Tickell (administering for Charles & Hugh) in the Hampshire Telegraph of 31st May 1824. Originally the bridge was sited at Hunston but has been restored on the site of Cutfield Bridge which was the nearest to the canal basin. It can be viewed across the canal from the towpath and is at GR. SU 859029.

J S F B

POYNTZ BRIDGE - THE SLUICE

Work has been proceeding during the winter months at Poyntz Bridge on digging out a part buried redundant sluice gate which is 20 feet from the bridge. Digging on the bridge side of the sluice gate first exposed two large cast iron pipes 2.5 feet diameter, one of which had a section of cast iron missing and the brick arch which replaced the iron had collapsed so it was possible to enter the pipe. The pipes turned ninety degrees down and the accessible one was then full of water. It could only be assumed that the pipes went under the bridge. During December and January when the canal water is at its clearest we searched for a possible pipe exit in the

canal but to no avail. On the 8th February several dustbins full of water with a dye (beetroot juice) were tipped into the hole. After several minutes cloudy water was seen rising from the bed of the canal several feet from the supporting wall of Poyntz Bridge. The set up appears to consist of two large 'U' bends between the sluice gate and the canal. The short length of brick arch was to increase the pitch between the pipe centres, as at the pipe flanges the pitch is four inches larger than between the sluice gates. Recent digging behind the sluice gate has revealed an open channel. It is planned to clean and paint the redundant sluice as an additional artefact of Industrial Archaeology next to the Poyntz Bridge.

Chris Bryan

Membership

Our membership has increased steadily for many years but now is stationary or declining. We need new members and anyone who can interest a friend or relation in our activities would be doing a service both to them and to the Society.

I shall be very happy to write with our details to any prospective new member.

Michael Bevan, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, 01903 235421

Waterworks

Those who went on the Arundel visit last summer would now notice a significant change to the pump-house at Swanborough Lake, which has been re-roofed. The Society has been trying to get this done since 1975, when a working party cleared the internal vegetation and John Haselfoot made a record of the pumping machinery. Following a repeat clean-up more recently and surveys of the building and machinery by Ron Martin and others, we are grateful to the Arundel Castle Estate for putting this work in hand.

The pump-house which dates from 1845/6 is a Listed Building, but was listed in its roofless state, so that special planning permission had to be obtained to re-roof it!

The original machinery comprised a waterwheel driving one, or possibly two, three-throw pumps. The waterwheel was replaced by the present Macadam-Fourneyron turbine around the turn of the century. The two existing pumps, by Stothert & Pitt, appear identical at first sight, but differ in detail and may be of different dates; the later one is not earlier than 1883. Evidently a lot more research is required.

The Castle archivist staff have been very helpful, but the Stothert & Pitt archives are proving very elusive, in spite of the company being a major manufacturer from the 1850's to at least the 1950's. It is hoped that a meeting can be arranged with the Arundel Estate to discuss what can be done to tidy and preserve the machinery after exposure to the elements for about 60 years.

At the time of writing (early March) essential maintenance at the Coultershaw Pump has been completed, with the prospect of spring-cleaning by the working party on 22 March and the first Open Day on 5 April.

Over the last couple of months the landscape has changed somewhat. West Sussex County Council have done some restoration of the remains of the lock chamber, and the Leconfield Estate have made a major clearance of the coal yard and much of the banks of the tail-pond, including cutting a channel to the lock chamber. It all looks very bare at the moment, but will help in interpreting the Rother Navigation. It also provides a new view of the fountain for northbound traffic on the A285, so maybe we shall attract some more visitors.

Needless to say, we would welcome new volunteers to help with maintenance and/or as visitor guides; if you can spare the odd half or whole day please get in touch with me.

Michael Palmer 01903 505626



SUSSEX MILLS GROUP



Newsletter for Sussex Mills Group - April 1998

Frank Gregory.

Frank has been in hospital for a month but at the time of writing this (12th March 1998) he is due out any day. I am sure that you would all like join me in wishing him well for a speedy recovery and to see him out and about in the summer.

Meetings.

National Mills Day 10th May 1998.

Please get out and support your local mill by volunteering to help on that day.

Mills Tour on Saturday 1st August 1998.

This will start at Burlesden Windmill at 10.30 am. From there the tour will move back towards to Sussex border area. Use your own transport and make your own eating arrangements.

October meeting Saturday 17th October 1998 starting 2.30 p.m.

CHANGE OF VENUE This will now be in the Village Hall of Shipley - close to Shipley windmill. There will be a discussion of mill matters and a talk by a speaker (to be arranged) There will be chance to inspect Shipley windmill.

The Committee is considering the following ideas to promote mills :

i) a passport scheme for children. We want to encourage them to ask their their parents to take them to other mills. The DUSTY MILLER sign will help them to get a badge when they have visited all the mills.

ii) a collection of postcards. A set of five or six postcards, each having pictures of three or four mills on it, will make a set of cards to collect.

Only one member has responded to my request postcards of mills made in the last newsletter!!!

Don Cox

News of Mills.

Ifield mill

Work on refurbishing the cross boarding of the waterwheel was curtailed as from the end of September due mainly to the weather. However, by coincidence, the chance came to acquire a 'Eureka' Scouring and Separating Machine (circa 1886) from the Jenner and Simpson premises at Battle. The mill there closed about 8 years ago and was due for demolition by the end of 1997. The machine was successfully removed to Ifield in October, partially dismantled and raised up to the second floor where it is undergoing a complete check over and clean. So far the indications are that it is in good order with very little wear in the main (plain brass) bearings. Apparently it had been installed originally in one of the windmills operated by Jonathan and William Caleb Gibbs at Fairlight and Northiam. Eventually in 1911 the premises at Battle were built and the 'Eureka' was moved there and was in regular use until the closure in 1989. Mr Jenner has remarked that it was still the best machine for the job in spite of modern technology ! In addition a 110 Volt generator driven at one time by the mill's gas engine has survived and has been moved to the Amberley Museum. Apart from supplying the mill the generator also provided some local shops with low voltage electricity prior to the arrival of a mains supply.

The gas engine was a 12" diameter single cylinder suction type with a 5 ton flywheel and provided the total power for the mill through line shafting and belting. Latterly this was removed and replaced with numerous electric motors with multiple switch gear and fuse boxes.

Work on the mill at Ifield will resume as soon as the weather is suitable.

Ted Henbury

Stone Cross Mill.

At the time of writing news is still awaited from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. English Heritage took 11 months to comment on the estimate of work to be done with the architect who had only two days to make those

comments. However the Trustees are still optimistic and have a monthly working party to keep the mill and surrounding area tidy

Jack & Jill

The most recent newsletter states that all is well, with maintenance still being carried out. The Alternative Power event is on 26th July 1998. Jill will soon be on the Internet

Shipley Mill.

Ongoing work has been done throughout the winter by volunteers plus some new gearing for the fantail bevel gears by Dorothea. Jonathan Creek has just finished on TV with fleeting glances of the mill. Rumour has it that they will be filming again there this autumn.

Mills For Sale.

Highdown Mill or Ecclesdon Mill, Angmering is for sale again. It is a brick tower mill. with no machinery and no cap but has four floors converted into living accommodation. Attached is a single storey dwelling giving a total of 7 to 8 bedrooms. There is an outside swimming pool, stabling and paddock. The asking price is £490,000 from Graham Butt on 01903 856400.

Burton Mill, south of Petworth.

Stuart Hail has decided to sell this watermill. He bought the lease several years ago and has carried out much work to convert the mill into living accommodation. Now with four bedrooms and a large living room in the building there does not seem to be much room for the mill machinery which is still complete and in working order. The mill is driven by a water turbine. The asking price is £245,000 from Stride & Sons on 01243 782626.

SIAS members put a lot of effort into the original restoration of this as a mill.

Mill Insurance.

The Hampshire Mills Group have arranged a mill insurance scheme with Commercial Union through brokers Roy Sansom & Co. of Eastleigh . I have a leaflet on the scheme for any one interested. Also I am trying to arrange for

a representative to come to the next Mills Meeting in October. Details will be in the next newsletter.

A note about the administration of some mills in Sussex.

1. Heritage Mill, Chailey.

The mill was leased to Chailey Parish Council in 1986 on a 99 year lease originally from Brighton Health Authority. The lease has now been taken over following the sale recently of the site which includes the mill.

The responsibility for the day to day running and maintenance of the mill has been delegated by the Parish Council to the Friends of Chailey Mill which was formed at the time the lease was arranged in 1986. All work and application for funds is done in the name of the Parish Council. The Mill is grade II listed and houses artefacts collected by Jim Downs.

A recent grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund of about £48,000 (90% of the total required) was assisted with grants from East Sussex County Council, Lewes District Council, a legacy from a family connected with the mill and the Friends own fund-raising events.

Vincent Pargeter was appointed by the Lottery Board to oversee the application and specification for Lottery funding. He worked with the millwrights and Friends of Chailey Mill.

The Friends approached millwrights Hole of Burgess Hill and the Chiltern Partnership (Hole did work there in 1987.) These specifications and quotations were sent to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Both firms were asked to quote for what they considered was required for the mill, but Vincent Pargeter said more work was required than in these specifications and so they and the appropriate quotations had to be updated and re-submitted. It was agreed that volunteers would be used to do part of the work. Firms were approached, about 12 to 15 months after the first submission to the Lottery, in the middle of 1996 and work started in February 1997 Work was not finished until August because it was found that 25% of the boards of the main building needed to be replaced. This time the cap has been rebuilt and timber pressure treated, which had not been done by Hole & Son previously. New stocks and sweeps have been fitted together with a new fantail. The work is expected to last for 40 years. A big brake has been fitted so that the

sails can be turned. This will minimise crevices filling with water and rotting the wood. The sails are not balanced at present but this will be done by Chiltern later in the year. They also suggested putting canvas inserts into the sails to help rotation. There is no machinery to be driven. The cap is fixed at present and so does not rotate.

The mill was for opened for National Heritage Weekend in September and had about 80 visitors. The mill will be open on the last Sunday of each month and on National Heritage Weekend (12/13th September) this year. The Mill has been allocated four car parking spaces.

The Chiltern Partnership are good people to work with although the person who did most of the work, Nic Wills, is no longer with them.

Lost Mills of Sussex, by Guy Blythman

No. 17 :- EAST HOATHLY WINDMILL.

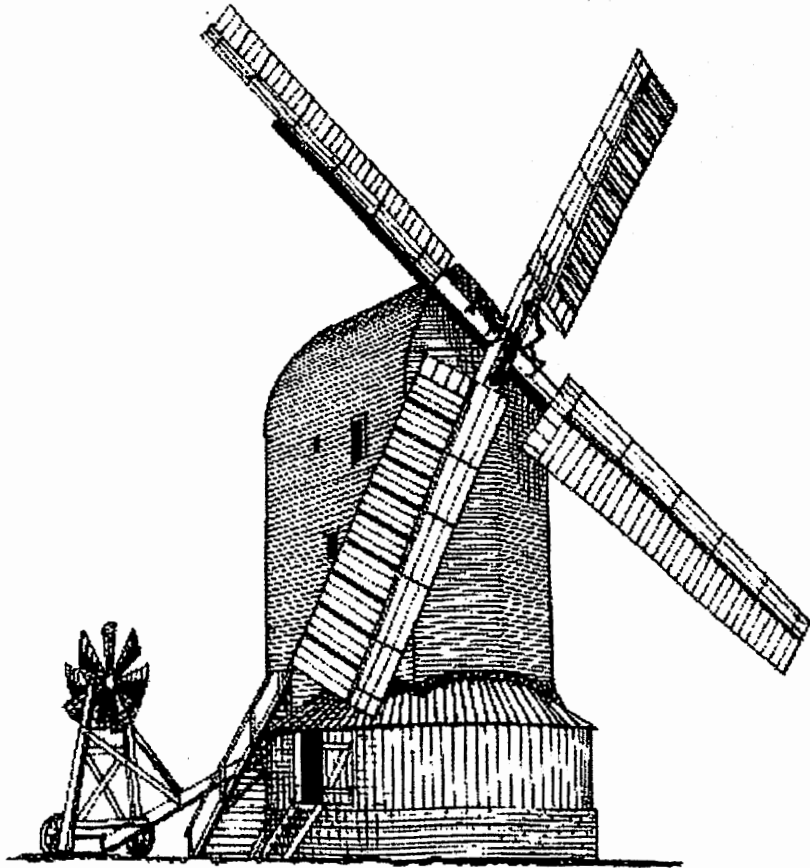
This post mill was built in 1824 to replace one destroyed by fire. Shortly after its construction it was sold to George Holman, son of Samuel Holman the original owner. He disposed of it in 1831 to James Martin, who in turn sold it in 1841 to a Mr E Morris of Lewes. Subsequent millers included G Norman (1851), Stephen Douse or Doust (1855, 1870), David Mercer (from 1872 to 1878), Caleb Woodham formerly of North Street Mill, Hellingly} (1882), Lewis Hampton (1887) George Davis (1890).

In 1836 the mill was severely damaged in what the Sussex Advertiser described as a "Tremendous And Destructive Hurricane".

In December 1891 it suffered the same fate as its predecessor. No apparent cause for the fire, which destroyed the structure within two and a half hours, could be ascertained. At the time the mill was in use and in good condition; it is believed to have been insured. The blaze was said locally to have been started deliberately.

This was a handsome-looking white mill with a roundhouse, fantail and four patent sweeps, the latter having leading boards extending their whole length.

Guy Blythman



EAST HOATHLY WINDMILL

R.G. Martin

International Mills Symposium

The 9th Symposium of the International Molinological Society (I.M.S.) was hosted by Hungary and centred upon the Technological University of Budapest from 2nd - 9th Aug. Over 100 delegates attended this truly International gathering of mill expertise with representatives from Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, and organised by I.M.S. Council member Gyorgy Balazs and a small team of dedicate enthusiasts ;the programme

was extremely well balanced and enjoyable. Commencing on the Saturday evening with a red carpet reception and dinner at the Museum of Hungarian Agriculture, entertainment was provided by Hungarian Folk Dancers and a Renaissance music ensemble. Sunday morning was spent at the Flour Milling Museum in Pest which houses a remarkable collection of milling machinery and artefacts gathered from across the country. In the afternoon sight-seeing coaches accompanied by excellent guides took us to many of the historical sites of this most fascinating city divided by the fast flowing Danube. Monday & Tuesday were entirely given over to the presentation of papers with a wide diversity of subjects ranging from 'Boat mills in Japan for Cotton Spinning' and 'The Marketing of Wind Engines in the USA' to 'Some Details of the Life & Burial Customs of the Millers of Csernaton.' Over 90 papers were presented each giving rise to lively debate and discussion.

Wednesday and Thursday were spent visiting a wide variety of mills. The round journey involved over 900km of coach travel which afforded us the opportunity to view the surrounding countryside with its fields of sunflowers and maize and storks precariously nesting on chimney pots and telephone poles. With such a large party it was necessary for two coaches to tour in opposite directions and meet up for the overnight stay at Pecs University hostel. Windmills (Szalmalom) were seen at Karcag, Kiskunhalas, Tes and Kiskunfelegyhaza. All were stone/brick tower mills varying in height and girth with each having its own interesting features. The state of the sails varied from totally missing to a full complement of six and winding methods ranged from braced tailpole to internal winch at dust floor level. Cast iron roller wheel neck bearings for the windshaft were seen in two of the mills and lantern pinion gearing was much in evidence. Two had spur wheels braced with iron rods and many of the stones seen had unusually large 'dishing' around the eye. Watermills (Vizmalom) were visited at Orvenyes, Csopak and at Orfu milling museum. As with the windmills, space does not allow a full description of each individual mill but undoubtedly the one at Orfu was a sheer delight to explore. Fully restored and now operated by turbine the full milling process could be clearly viewed with elevator, crushing and grinding rollers, cleaners and dressers plus a plansifter all working in unison to produce a fine flour which was used on site to bake a variety of goodies for us to sample: Horsemills (Szormalom) too were included in the tour and these were seen at Szarvas and again at Orfu where the horse driven wheel was used not only to turn a single pair of stones and a bolter but most interestingly for the production of oil from

sunflower, rape or marrow seeds. The power derived from the wheel was used to crush the seeds and to stir the mashed seed kneaded with water, in a heating pan. From here the resultant 'mash' was pressed in receptacles between two massive longitudinal timbers hinged at one end and drawn together by a large vertical hand-turned wheel in a nutcracker fashion. Many ancient querns were also seen in our travels varying both in design and operation, but one seen at the Flour Milling Museum made entirely of (Acacia ?) wood caused raised eyebrows. It was thought to have been used for husking rather than actual flour production.

The final full day of the Symposium was held at the Hungarian Open Air Museum just north of Budapest at Szentendre. Here after a morning of papers and a traditional Hungarian lunch there was the opportunity to see another horsemill, a single pair of stones powered by belt drive from a stationary petrol engine and the 'piece de resistance' - an oblique treadmill. Said to be the only remaining survivor of its type it comprised a large disc built of wooden planks mounted on a large central spoked post tilted and secured in the ground. A horse was 'persuaded' to step onto the treadwheel which steadily rolled downwards as the animal walked forward thus causing the wheel to revolve. The wooden surface was plastered in mud to prevent the horse from slipping. Wooden gearing from the wheel took the drive to a single pair of stones producing a crude meal which was subsequently sieved at home before use. To see this in operation was a rare treat and made an apt finale to our Hungarian milling experiences.

Returning to the University restaurant the evening was spent indulging ourselves at the 'Dinner d'adieu' with an excellent meal accompanied by the customary votes of thanks and au revoirs as we were invited to attend the 10th Symposium to be held at Stratford Hall, Virginia in 2000. As a final parting gesture and memento of a splendid week each delegate was presented with a bottle of Hungarian wine duly labelled. This bottle was filled in honour of..(delegate's name) on the occasion of the 9th Molinological Symposium of Budapest 9th August 1997' The response to such a gift can only be 'Cheers, we had a marvellous time'. Peter Hill

Mills Book for Sale.

The Windmills of Surrey and Inner London by Farries and Mason. Price £85
Please contact Peter James, 01293 409845

Ship-building at the Canal Basin, Chichester

From 'Records of Chichester', T.G.Willis, 1928.

Mr. Edwin Wilmhurst wrote from Retford in 1914, prompted by a lecture given by Mr.O.N.Wyatt on his recollections of Chichester. (Mr. Wyatt's family had moved to Chichester when he was a child in 1853).

'My great.- grandfather Biffin, timber merchant, whose timber yards and workshops extended along outside East Walls, built some ships by the Canal Basin for the Baltic trade and for coasting, the hulls were launched from slips into the Basin and towed down to Dell Quay and there masted and fitted'. He adds, 'There was no glass to the windows of the workshop but oiled paper was used'. James Biffin, cooper, is listed in Bailey's Directory, 1784.

James with his sons John and Charles appear in Pigot's Directory, 1839 as coopers, coal and timber merchants, St.Pancras. Probably the Biffins worked at the Canal Basin on the site occupied later by Covers timber merchants and now by Geoffrey Osborne, builders. They were also well sited near St. Pancras church, outside East Walls, to supply barrels to James Atkey's brewery in East Walls.

Rosemary A. Gilmour,
Chichester District Museum.

New Books

Operation Cuckmere Haven, by Peter Longstaff Tyrrell.

This A4 size 80 page publication covers the war time role of the only undeveloped coastal valley in the South East of England. Well provided with photographs and maps, it reveals how the existing I.A. in the valley, such as the 1918 cross channel cable and the tea rooms, now the 'Golden Galleon' pub, was modified to suit war needs. Many of the structures still existing in the area have their purpose explained. There are pen portraits of some of the personalities of the area, all helping in the interpretation.

There is a good index, glossary, and list of sources. At the end of the book there are descriptions of the many tank roads, some still remaining, which were built in the locality.

Peter is well known for his researches into wartime Sussex through his book 'That Peace in Our Time'. This is a splendid and well researched excursion into the accessible, but little known, history of this beautiful area.

The book is obtainable by post from "Gote House Publishing" Polegate, BN26 6NZ, East Sussex. Price £6.99 post free (Not £7.99 as previously stated) BA

William Allen and the Lindfield Colony

William Allen of Lindfeld and elsewhere did more than most to help alleviate the squalor, degradation and illiteracy of the working classes during the early part of the 19th century - a subject not often mentioned when reporting the industrial scene. His influence extended to many foreign parts, including Sierra Leone which was founded as a refuge for freed slaves. The Lindfield Colony and his connection with Robert Owen of the New Lanark Mills are particularly worth investigating and if any Member is looking for a subject on which to carry out research here is one. For further information please get in touch with me.

Ron Martin

Brick Churches

The British Brick Society of which our Society is a Member is currently investigating the existence of brick built churches built before 1840. It would seem rather appropriate that Sussex should participate in this research as a corollary to the excellent book by Molly Beswick Brickmaking in Sussex, copies of which are still available from me at £14.95. If any members know of any such churches or chapels would they please report them to me, with location and if possible, some historical notes.

Ron Martin

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Mills Group

(Copy for the Mills Group section should be sent to D.H. Cox whose address is below.)

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