



## Friends of Letheringsett Mill A.G.M. 2008

### The First Friends of Letheringsett Mill A.G.M.

Sunday 29th June was the day of the first A.G.M. Already arranged to be held in Letheringsett watermill, we were fortunate enough to be able to hold it outside on the lawn beside the river. The Chairman thanked the committee for all their hard work in setting up and running the group for a very successful first year, with the treasurer also reporting a year of successful fundraising and limited expenditure. The Officers and committee for the coming year were duly elected as follows.

Chairman	Jonathan Neville
Treasurer	Bridget Neville
Secretary	Anne Grand
Committee members	Mike & Marion Thurlow

The committee is still much smaller than we would really like and we would welcome any members who are interested and can spare a small amount of time to help. We meet as a committee approximately 4—6 meetings a year. New ideas are always very welcome to keep the group interesting and most importantly, growing. Please contact any of us if you would like more information.

### The River Glaven Walk

With the business side of the A.G.M. completed, it was both refreshing and relaxing to walk along the lane by the mill, to the River Glaven. Ian Sheppard from the River Glaven Conservation Group told us many interesting facts about the River Glaven, the water quality as demonstrated by the variety of plant life and fish species, about the effects of different river management styles in the 60's compared to now and concerns about the aggressive and invasive signal crayfish of which have 2 or 3 have been found in Letheringsett Ford in the River Glaven just above the mill. (For more on signal crayfish, see page 3)

We returned to the mill for tea with scones, jam and cream well informed about the River Glaven, so important to the running of the mill. Many thanks to Ian Sheppard for sharing his extensive knowledge.



*Ian Sheppard with FLM members by the River Glaven*

For more information about the River Glaven Conservation Group and their work, visit their website:  
[www.riverglaven.org.uk](http://www.riverglaven.org.uk)

# Letheringsett takes Delivery of New Millstones



## New Millstones Delivered!

At last, the long awaited additional set of millstones were finally delivered to the mill on 15th April. The millstones were made to order for Letheringsett mill in Holland. It was fascinating to watch the final stages of the delivery and installation of the stones weighing in at nearly a ton. The lorry arrived promptly and the stones were lowered to the ground on it's tail-lift. So far - straight forward! Getting two millstones to the first floor is not! Planning had preceded each movement of the heavy stones. Much ingenuity and improvisation and was required.

*With the millstones successfully unloaded from the lorry, Mike, with tension showing on his face, contemplates the next stage, lifting them through the locam to the first floor.*

A teleporter was hired from and driven by a local farmer. This was used to lift the stones. After a couple of tense moments, and some quick adjustments to the length of the strops which suspended the millstone in mid-air from the teleporter, the first millstone was skilfully positioned in the locam opening and un-hitched.



*Man-handling the new millstone carefully into position and gently lower it to the floor*

Each millstone was then successfully manoeuvred into position on the first floor, the stone-floor by hoisting, rolling and lots of man power. Any damage to the stones even chipping the edges would adversely affect the efficiency of milling. Dropping a stone from even a small distance risked breaking it! Although a modern day teleporter was used for the lifting of the stones up to the first floor many of the lifting and handling techniques were the same as when the original pair of stones were installed.



*The first new millstone, the runner stone, raised to the opening of the locam and still attached to the teleporter*

More photos on website: [www.letheringsettmillfriends.co.uk](http://www.letheringsettmillfriends.co.uk)

## Latest Update.

The millstones are now in-situ. A new wooden tun, which will cover the new pair of working stones has been made and currently in the process of being varnished. The tun will require three coats of varnish. The tun is tightened by a metal ring, in a similar way to a barrel then any remaining gaps between the wood will be filled with a special filler suitable for food use to make it flour tight.



*The new millstones in working position, with old the tun to the rear*



*The new tun, one coat of varnish, awaiting 2 more ! Exterior view*



*Interior view of tun showing wooden slats which will be tightened by the metal band to make it flour tight*



# National Mills weekend

## Thrigby & Thurne Mills

11th May 2008



The trip arranged by Friends of Letheringsett for the National Mills Weekend to Thrigby postmill and Thurne drainage mill was a great success. The sky was blue and virtually cloudless, there was a breeze but unfortunately not quite strong enough to get the sails of either mill turning. Both mills although very different, are typical of Broadland landscapes. Thrigby postmill was originally built in 1790 and worked until 1892 when the mill body was dismantled as it had a severe death watch beetle infestation. It was extensively rebuilt in the 1980's by Nick Prior.



*Thrigby— brakewheel & wind shaft*

We were shown around by the new owner Peter Gillett and his family. He explained that although the postmill now requires further work, the sails are capable of turning, wind permitting, with dark red canvas sails unfurled across the white wooden common sails. He took us all, in small groups, up to the first and second floors where we were able to see one of the millstones and the brake wheel.

We relaxed in the sun with home made cakes and tea whilst other members took their turn. Lunch was at the Lion at Thurne before continuing on to Thurne drainage pump. At Thurne, Friends of Norfolk Mills held an open day and hoped to get the sails turning to pump water for the first time since 1936 following much restoration work carried out supported by Norfolk Windmills Trust, the Broads Authority and Vincent Pargeter a local millwright. The sails were pushed and rotated manually to try to get them to catch the wind and turn independently, the fantail was also turned to ensure the sails faced directly in to the wind but all to no avail, there was just not quite enough wind!



*The wherry Maud moored at Thurne mill*



*Thrigby—the wooden buck or mill body*



*Thurne drainage mill*

Inside the mill, the main shaft and brake wheel were all visible. The steep climb to the top and out onto the fan tail platform was well rewarded by views across the River Thurne to St Benet's Level drainage pump or below to the wherry Maud, Vincent Pargeter's wherry, moored against the river bank which was also open for inspection. Refreshments were available but for most of us, it was too soon after lunch!

For the history of both of these mills visit:  
[www.norfolk Mills.co.uk](http://www.norfolk Mills.co.uk)



## Signal Crayfish

The native white-clawed crayfish found in the River Glaven is under threat of invasion from the much bigger, aggressive and invasive signal crayfish. Originally introduced into the UK in the late 70's and early 80's from North America, the signal crayfish were introduced and cultivated for the food industry, many escaped and have spread to the freshwater river systems.

The signal crayfish seeks similar habitats to the white-clawed crayfish. However, the signal breeds earlier, produces more young which colonise the prime locations before the white-claws hatch out. The signals also grow faster, are more aggressive and more tolerant of pollution. They also carry a fungal infection to which the signals are immune but is fatal to white-clawed crayfish!

The effects of the signal crayfish does not stop there— their burrowing can cause erosion and even collapse of river banks. The increased density of signals, which feed on plants, fish, fish eggs and even the white-clawed crayfish can easily disrupt the natural balance. The spread has been particularly devastating in the south of England.

Control is difficult as the signals are able to walk long distances overland to another river. It is probably impossible to eliminate the signals completely so trying to protect areas where the white-clawed crayfish are still plentiful is favoured. This approach is applicable to Letheringsett. Although 2 or 3 signals have been captured at the ford, they are not well established and white-clawed crayfish are still found in the River Glaven along with the Rivers Wensum, Tat, Bure and Yare in Norfolk.



*Abundant vegetation in the clear water of the River Glaven*

**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!**

**SUMMER  
CHEESE & WINE  
EVENING**

*At*  
**Letheringsett Watermill**  
**Friday 18th July**  
*7 pm till late....*

*Join us for an evening by the River Glaven*  
*Good wine, selected cheese*  
*Try your hand at duck racing*  
**Admission by ticket only**

**£10 per person**

*From*  
**Anne Grand Tel: 01603 754623**  
**Bridget Neville Tel: 01263 587564**



**FLM Events 2008**  
**Dates for your Diary**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Cheese & Wine by the River Glaven**

This event, hosted by Friends of Letheringsett Mill will hopefully be one of many involving all the different mill groups in Norfolk and their members meeting and socialising together.

Enjoy a summer evening beside the River Glaven at Letheringsett Mill with fine cheese and wines included. The mill will open to view. Please bring a raffle prize. 7 pm till late

**Tickets £10 in advance. Available now!**

**Saturday 16th August**  
**Festival for Living 9.30—3pm**

Friends of Letheringsett Mill have been invited to have a small stand along side Mike and his Letheringsett products. The Festival for Living will be held in Lees Court in Holt and raise money for McMillan Nursing. We will use this opportunity to promote an awareness and interest in the mill to the shoppers and visitors in Holt on a busy Saturday and hope to recruit some new members. If you can spare a couple of hours to help man the stall, please get in touch!

**Saturday 16th August**  
**Summer B.B.Q at Morse's Windpump Park**

Friends of Morse's Windpump Park, based at Repps with Bastwick in the heart of the Broads are return hosts holding a summer barbeque to which all FLM members are invited.

Arrive at 11.00am with tea and coffee waiting. A guided tour of Morse's Wind Engine Park follows to see the unique collection wind engines and a scoop wheel dating back to the nineteenth century. Lunch will be a barbeque of kebabs, burgers, sausages, salad and all the normal trimmings with a glass or two of wine, tea and coffee.

Tickets £10 per head.  
For further details please contact  
Debra Nicholson. Telephone: 01692 672155

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Letheringsett Barbeque**

Mike & Marion Thurlow will host their annual BBQ on the riverside lawns of the mill.  
More details to follow.

*For further information on any of the events, please check the website:*

**www.letheringsettmillfriends.co.uk**

Or contact: Anne Grand  
**Telephone: 01603 754623**

**Email: info@letheringsettmillfriends.co.uk**

**STOP PRESS**

**Friends of Norfolk Mills have awarded us a grant of £100 towards the purchase of a stone hand quern for the school room.**  
**Sincere thanks to F.N.M!**

(more details in next issue)



**Friends of Letheringsett  
Mill**

**CONTACT DETAILS**

Anne Grand  
Newsletter Co-coordinator/Secretary  
24 Taverham Road Felthorpe  
Norwich NR10 4DR  
Phone: **01603 754623**

Website: [www.letheringsettmillfriends.co.uk](http://www.letheringsettmillfriends.co.uk)

Email: [info@letheringsettmillfriends.co.uk](mailto:info@letheringsettmillfriends.co.uk)

**Letheringsett Watermill**  
**Riverside Road, Letheringsett, Holt, NR25 7YD**

**For Mill opening times etc.**  
**Telephone : 01263 713153**  
**Website: www.letheringsettwatermill.co.uk**