

From the Chair

The impossibly wet autumn ('the wettest since records began', says the TV weather-person, looking terribly pleased) has made me wonder if there is any mileage in running a series in 224 drawing together scattered reference to the weather in this region in the past. Have people always said it never used to be this bad? If anyone is interested in researching the topic, let us know.

We are now well into our third season, with our third Christmas social taking place on 13 December. I have just been reading that in the old calendar 13 December, the Feast of St Lucy, was the longest night.

'Tis the year's midnight, and it is
the day's,
Lucy's, who scarce seven hours
herself unmasks,
The sun is spent and now his
flasks
Send forth light squibs, no constant rays.

[John Donne, 'A nocturnal upon St Lucy's day, being the shortest day'.]

Lucy was martyred in 304, her eyes being put out but miraculously restored before her execution; she is often depicted carrying her eyes upon a plate. Light (*lux* in Latin) returns after her day, and she is therefore the patron saint of light, of the blind, and of glaziers. It's a nice thought, darkness/ignorance transforming into light/enlightenment: any other suggestions for a patron saint for the society?

A happy Christmas and the best of new years to everyone.

Chris Day—Chairman

Clifton Mill: part 3

The final part of our description is a report on the significance of the mill and the principal features of interest: the photographic survey and report covered only the old Mill: the nineteenth-century addition on the west end has already been converted to a private house.

There are questions as to why this extension was needed. It is on three floors, like the old Mill, and the floors are at the same levels, meaning that it could be worked as part of the Mill. Increased production was an issue for water mills in the nineteenth century.

The threshing floor is missing from the mill. It is possible that the nineteenth-century building replaces an earlier threshing floor. Internal evidence—the band wheel near the south window, first floor—suggests that this ran a belt drive to machinery in the new extension. This might have been a threshing machine. There is no sign now of either a dresser or bolting machine, perhaps these were also accommodated in the new extension.

Architectural inventory *Exterior*

The mill now forms part of a group of mill buildings, a nineteenth-century building having been added to its west end and a range of cottages, which may have their origins in the seventeenth century, being at right angles to the mill building to the north west.

A stream off the River Cherwell runs through under the middle of the mill. The main body of water is channelled to the east of the mill and controlled by a sluice.

The main road from Aynho to Deddington runs directly past the mill. The level has been raised by about 18 inches. The road was rebuilt with a new bridge in the middle of the

nineteenth century.

The Mill is built of rubble stone, coursed and with a few large quoins on the corners. The stone is limestone. There is a low plinth of stone around the bottom of the building, rising to double the height on the north side across the mill stream and to the main entrance door. The roof is of slate.

North elevation *Ground floor*

Windows: window openings are seventeenth-century. wooden lintels and frames, the windows are missing.

Door: Seventeenth-century opening, wooden lintel. Door a replacement. Ironwork on left hand side.

Arch: Stone arch over mill race.

Blocked Door: c 1483 ashlar ironstone surround with a depressed arch and quoins. Signs of stress in the cracking of the lintel.

Iron cross brace in the stonework over the stream.

First floor

Windows: Seventeenth-century win-

Programme 2001

10 January: Carl Boardman, Oxfordshire's County Archivist, on the new Record Office

14 February: Malcolm Graham, Head of the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies, on Oxfordshire in World War II

14 March: John Leighfield, on the history of Oxfordshire maps, with special reference to Deddington

Meetings take place at the Windmill Centre in Hempton Road at 7.30 on the second Wednesday of the month.

dow openings, all with wooden lintels. The western window with iron window and bars still in place.

East elevation

Ground floor

Windows: Two blocked windows probably c 1483 with moulded-ironstone surrounds.

First floor

Door opening with flat stone lintel, later insertion. with later door.

Top floor

Large opening has been bricked up with small window and vent inserted.

South elevation

Ground floor

Doors: Door at east end, seventeenth-century with wooden lintel. Other openings are of very fine quality.

All appear to be c 1483.

Central door opening to water mill, chamfered jambs and stone lintel, much worn.

Segmental arched opening with chamfered ashlar surround, used as a wide entrance from the road, now filled with coursed rubble stone and small wooden door inserted.

Windows: Two small rectangular windows with moulded stone surrounds and central iron bar, perhaps sixteenth century.

First floor

Windows: These openings are seventeenth century, all square heads with wooden lintels. Two windows and one large central opening, now boarded up.

Fabric: The stonework shows signs of stress cracks. The slate roof is visibly curved. Iron cross-brace on stonework nearly central to the building.

Straight joint between this mill building and the nineteenth-century building on its west end. which diminishes by five inches on the upper floor.

Interior

The mill has three storeys. This arrangement has existed since the seventeenth century.

The machinery occupies the three floors. In the nineteenth century, there has been repair to the structural frame and the present mill wheel and mill machinery inserted, replacing earlier mill machinery.

Ground floor

Here the nineteenth-century changes are most evident: two iron wheels were put in place in the race of the mill stream and new machinery.

Brick walls were built to each side, and brick was used to make the base structure for wooden enclosing of the wheels and cog wheels.

The machinery was carefully protected and is not very visible. The enclosed mill stream in Bay 3 divides this floor into three parts.

Bay 1

At the entrance; York stone slab floor, very broken up before the door.

West wall: large cupboard space and a small cupboard with door.

New doorway into nineteenth-century mill building. South wall: small niche beside the wide opening. This now reduced in size by stone infill, small door inserted. Beam between Bay 1 and 2 repaired with iron bands and supported with two iron columns.

Bay 2

The mill gearing is in this bay. It is boarded-in with narrow wooden panels. It takes up half of Bay 2.

Floor: York stone paving slabs in good condition.

North window: seventeenth-century opening; south window, sixteenth-century ironstone reveals, soffit and cill, iron bar.

Wooden ladder stair to first floor

Brick wall in the line of the beam between Bay 2 & 3.

Bay 3

Walk-way of pine planks lies across the mill stream on the north side. The wheel takes up half of this bay. It is iron with iron vanes, which are badly corroded. It is a breast-shot wheel, second wheel now missing. The water wheel brick cell was inserted into the original space. An iron beam has been inserted to strengthen the floor above.

Seventeenth-century north window. The south opening c 1483 ironstone.

Bay 4

Bay 4 & 5 are one open space, similar to Bay 1 & 2. Bay 4 harbours the second gearing, for the second wheel. This is also missing but the brick structure, the wooden posts are still in situ.

Two pitch pine cross beams have been inserted. Brick wall lies in the line of beam between Bay 3 & 4.

Floor: York stone paving slabs, badly damaged in south west corner.

North wall: seventeenth-century window opening.

South wall: sixteenth-century window ironstone reveals, cill and soffit, one central iron bar.

Niche to left of window.

Bay 5

Beam between Bay 4 and supported on two iron columns.

Floor: east end damaged stone paving, possibly oolite limestone. This is one third of the bay. York stone paving through the rest of the bay.

North wall: blocked doorway.

East wall: Two blocked windows, niche to the north of them. Windows with stone cills.

South wall: seventeenth-century doorway, stone reveals, later door in very poor condition.

First Floor

This is one space. It is on this floor that the bay division is clear. The bays are marked by beams with stopped chamfers. Signs of stress caused by the excessive weight of the nineteenth-century mill machinery, are visible in the repairs to the beams and additional supports.

Walls are plastered over the rubble stone. Some stone shows through.

The remaining mill cogwheels, stones, band wheels and shaft, dominate this floor.

Floor is planked and much repaired.

Bay 1

West wall: small opening and later doorway now blocked.

Floor: boards are rotten in south west corner. Some wide old boards, some modern repair.

Beam between Bay 1 & 2 is repaired and two posts inserted. One is part of a seventeenth-century chamfered post with stops.

Bay 2

The stair arrives here. The surviving mill shaft, cog wheels and belt wheels, two grinding stones, with the tuns to protect them. Hopper to north stone is still in place.

South wall: seventeenth-century window opening. North wall: seventeenth-century window opening and seventeenth-century iron window still in place.

Beam between Bay 2 & 3 in good condition. There is much strengthening of the structure in pitch pine. A support structure has been put in with the mill machinery.

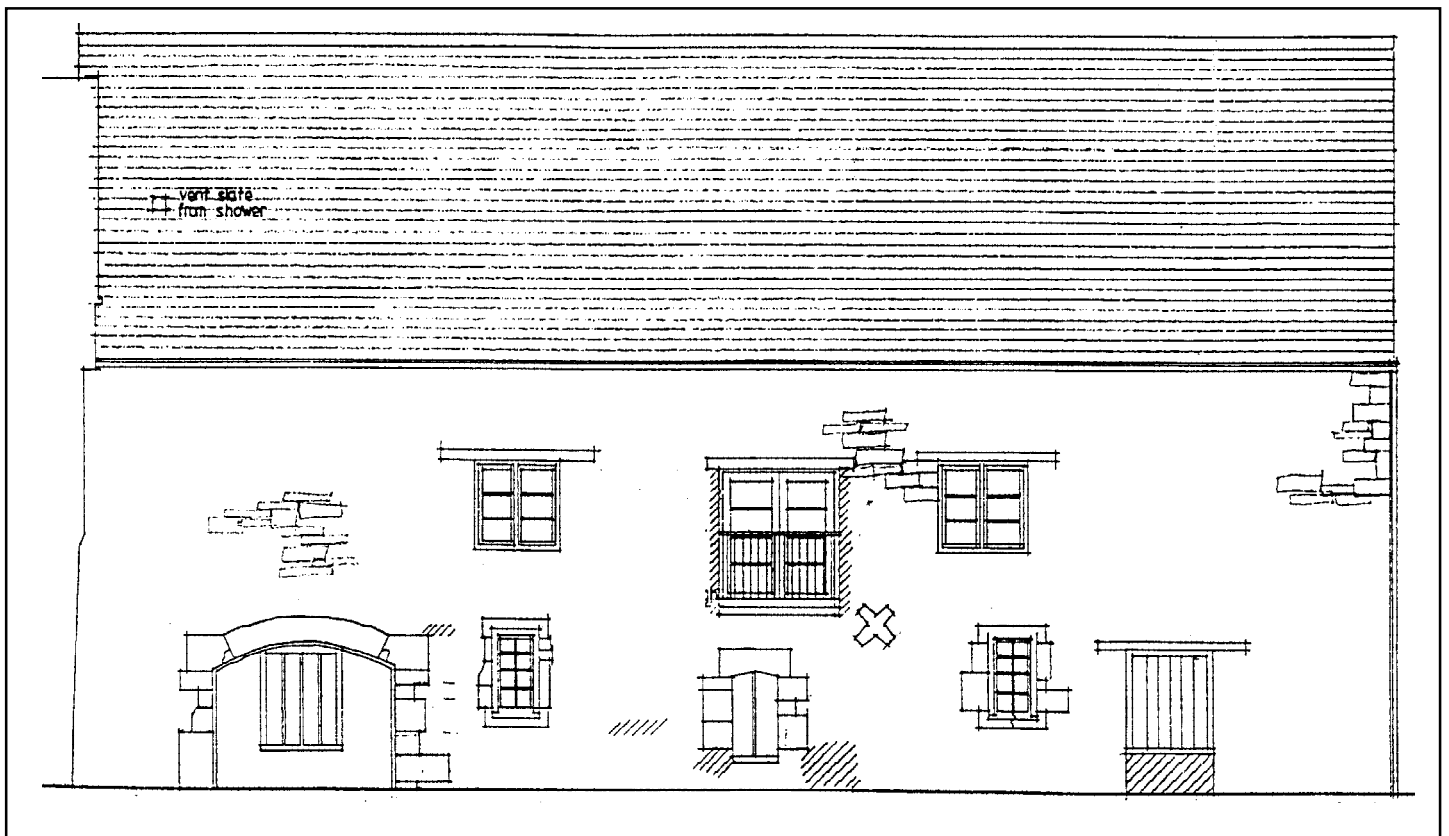
Floor raised around machinery.

Bay 3

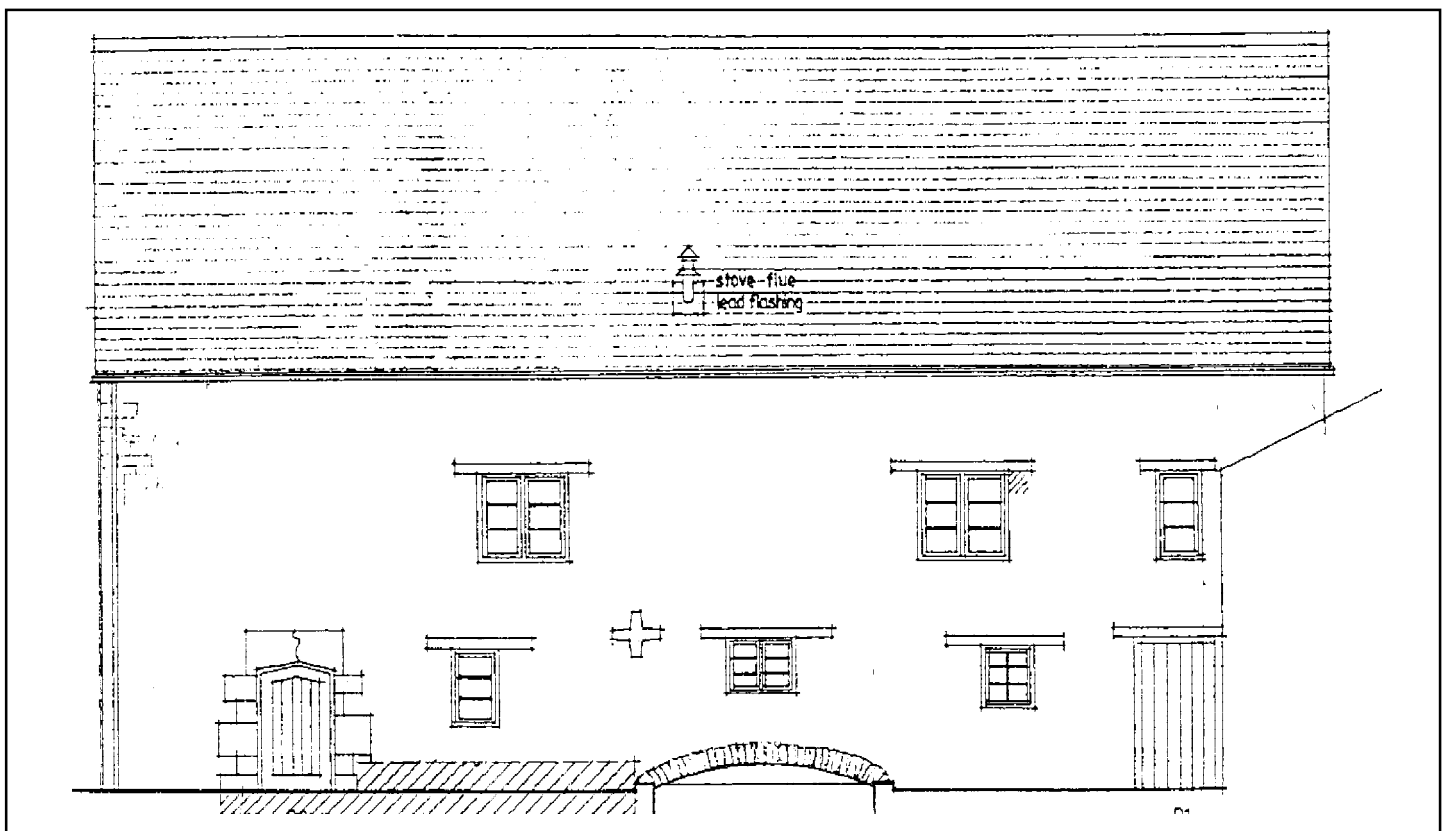
One nether and two upper mill stones lie here.

South wall: The seventeenth-century wide opening is now boarded up.

Floor is nineteenth-century narrow



Front and rear elevations of Clifton Mill, Oxfordshire.



pine planks. A number of hopper heads in the ceiling, some extinct, some designed for the last use of the mill. Beam between Bay 3 & 4 has been much repaired with iron clasps, iron reinforcement, an iron post and part of a seventeenth-century chamfered post.

Bay 4

Signs of the second mill machinery in

this bay. Marks of the stones on the wooden floor.

Ladder stairs from ground floor and another up to attic. Hatch with flaps. This is directly below a similar hatch in the attic. It was possible to hoist sacks from ground to attic and vice versa.

Windows in north and south walls, Seventeenth-century openings.

Beam between Bay 4 & 5 strengthened by a pitch pine beam inserted below it. Two columns used as props. One iron, the other a part of a seventeenth-century chamfered post with stops.

Bay 5

Hopper heads in the centre of the floor. A number of old floor boards still in place in good condition, but also areas



Left: This seasonal photo is of the Boxing Day meet of the Heythrop. Kelly's Directory for 1920 states that the trees in the Market Place "were planted to commemorate the Jubilee of Her Late Majesty Queen Victoria", which dates them either to 1888 or 1898, her Golden or Diamond Jubilee. As there are no trees in the photo it was presumably taken before then. Does any member know anything about this photo? Our thanks both to Colin Robinson and to John Cole for its use.

Appeal! Does any member know of a picture of the Pudding Pie Fair?

Women in WW II

We are intending to carry out research into women's lives in the Deddington area during World War II. If anyone has personal reminiscences and wouldn't mind sharing them, please contact Moira Byast on 01869 338637.

A recipe for using hard cheese

When I made this eighteenth-century recipe for last Christmas' social I added about a tablespoon of port for each half pound of cheese to start with. After this it is a matter of personal taste! *Moira Byast*

'Take your quantity of cheese, gone hard, or stale and grate it finely.

Add a small spoonful of mustard and butter to half the quantity of the cheese.

Beat very hard until they are mixed together.

Add port or brandy, in quantity about 1 small glass for each 1lb of cheese. Taste and add more spirits if required.

Place in small pots and place melted butter over the surface, so that the spirits remain within the mess, if kept.

Serve with hot toast or rusks.

'I never saw a dish of this come back from the table uneaten'.

of patching. Directly in front of east wall opening, a strip of very wide boards.

East wall: opening was very wide but is now reduced to a doorway.

Attic Floor

This sits under great roof of the Mill.

There are five bays and seven rafters within each bay between the principal rafters.

It is a collar-beam roof with a ridge piece. There are three purlins, but no bracing. Presumably the beams across the building on this floor and on the first acted like tie beams, but were no match for the excessive weight of the two mills. The south side of the roof shows great signs of stress. Repairs to the purlins and the principal rafters are in pitch pine. Purlins are chamfered. All the timber has been shot blasted, which means the surface has been lost.

There are no signs of carpenter's marks.

The attic is divided into two horizontally: a wooden floor runs in the middle from east to west and is at the level of just below the middle purlin, thus forming bins between each bay and below this floor level. There is more storage beneath this floor. There are numbers painted on the rafters, being bin numbers. The wooden boards of the

flooring have been repaired in patches.

The bins are to each side of the central attic floor. Sometimes a bin takes up one bay and sometimes the bay is subdivided into two. Usually there is a wooden ladder fixed to the wall and a hole for the hopper down to the first floor.

Bay 1

Trap door in central floor to store below.

Bay 2

Central floor has the band wheels and drive for the hoist. A winnowing machine sits beside the hoist. There seems to be a system of band wheels and cog wheels to take the corn from this down to the mill. One cog wheel, now without cogs, does not have a clear function.

Bay 3

Hatch to store below.

Bay 4

Pitch pine hoist, large hatch and the ladder stair from below.

Bay 5

East wall had a large opening to receive the sacks of corn.

Our thanks to Mr Aubrey for allowing us to use this fascinating survey.

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