

Grist to the Mill

The Newsletter of the Mills & Millers of Ireland



20

€4.00



The Society of Mills and Millers of Ireland was launched in 2001 to encourage and assist in the preservation and appreciation of mills as part of our industrial, architectural and landscape heritage. There are hundreds of mills and mill sites spread across the country and while many are beautifully refurbished or put to good use, there are also many others which could be restored or renovated while preserving their traditional context. The Society aims to promote interest and awareness in this aspect of Ireland's industrial heritage by building up knowledge and expertise in areas such as law, architecture, renewable energy and manufacturing and making information available through publications, lectures and events.

Life President

William E. Hogg, County Dublin

2010-11 Committee

Chair	James Tallon, Martry Mill, Meath
Vice Chair	Noel Killen, Ballydugan Mill, Down
Secretary	Stephanie Bourke, 67 Hampton Green, Balbriggan, Dublin
Treasurer	Anne Berney, Ballyconran, Craanford, Gorey, County Wexford
& members	Patsy Connolly, Monaghan 086 8135503
	Oliver Delaney, Meath 086 0708321
	John Delaney, Roscommon 087 7615123
	Simon Lancaster, Meath slancaster@eircom.net
	Kevin O'Reilly, Lurganboy, Cavan
	Steve Pilgrim, Williamstown Heritage Group, Galway 087 2927288
	Anne Skelly, Longford askelly@ireland.com 043 3326109
Web Master	Marcus Sweeney, Tipperary 087 9263300
	Pru Symmons, Meath Prudencesymmons@hotmail.com
	Ronan Jacob
Newsletter	Simon Lancaster, John Lynch, Stephanie Bourke

All editorial enquiries, articles for publication, books for review, correspondence should be addressed to the Society's Editorial Team c/o Simon Lancaster, Tullog Mill, Naul, County Dublin.

millsandmillersofireland@gmail.com

Web site: www.millsofireland.org

Edition: Autumn 2011

Cover photograph: S. Lancaster, Wash Mill at Fairbrook House, Kilmeaden, County Waterford, June 2011.

ISSN 1649 - 3273

Charitable Tax No Chy 14707

Notes to contributors: Articles submitted for consideration to the Editor must be the original work of the author. Where photographs are included which are not the property of the contributor, permission to reproduce must have been obtained from the owner of the copyright.

Views expressed are not necessarily the views of the Society.

Editorial

As issue number 20 of our newsletter goes to print, the Society of Mills & Millers of Ireland will be ten years in existence. An occasion to reflect, take stock and move forward. The forthcoming AGM, on 8 October, is an opportunity for members to contribute to a wish-list for the decade ahead. Sharing information, expertise and friendship have been hallmarks of the society to-date. High on our list for the future is a permanent home for MMOI, incorporating an archive and resource centre.



Fairbrook

We thank contributors to this issue of *Grist to the Mill* and encourage others to put pen to paper or finger to keyboard.

Editorial team c/o Tullog Mill

Contents

Ballincollig Royal Gunpowder Mills	5
News from Mill Societies	6
Spring Event 2011 at Fancroft Mill & Gardens	8
Full Circle	10
Mill Matters	14
The Firm of Johnston Mooney and O'Brien	15
Feng Shui and Mills	18
Mills & Milling in the Barony of Tulla	19
Book reviews	21
The Miller Magazine & Shackleton's Mills	22
O'Rourke's of Innishkeen & Dundalk	23
Summer Event 2011 Waterford	25
MMOI Meets Heritage Officers	29
Mill Sheet record	30
Calendar of events, membership, advertising rates	31



offering

- *Restaurant*
- *Accommodation*
- *Conference Facilities*
- *Licensed to host weddings*

Drumcullen Road,
Ballydugan,
Downpatrick,
County Down,
BT30 8HZ
Northern Ireland

Tel: Downpatrick
44613654



MARTRY MILL

*Suppliers of
Genuine
Stoneground Wholemeal*

JAMES TALLON & SONS

**Tel: (046) 28800
Mobile: (086) 8173205**



WATER POWER SERVICES

***Specialists in
Design and Construction of All Types of
Water Power Schemes***

POWER YOUR MILL!

**13 Marlboro Rd, Dublin 4
Email fiacob@iol.ie**

**Phone +353 1 668 0043
www.waterpowerservices.ie**

The Ballincollig Royal Gunpowder Mills

Jenny Webb

The gunpowder mills in Ballincollig operated from 1794-1903 and in its day was the second largest gunpowder works in the whole of Britain and Ireland. Now Ballincollig Regional Park, it is Ireland's most extensive industrial archaeological site, comprising over 130 acres of woodland, meadows and waterways. As a listed monument, it also enjoys protected status. (NHA 94)

The mills extended over one and a half miles on the south bank of the River Lee six miles from Cork City. Because of the extensive nature of the site there was a network of canals, fed directly from the Lee, powering both the grinding mills at the eastern end as well as a further number of water-powered installations, including a sawmill and a charcoal mill. There were twelve wheels in the incorporating mills, each driving two pairs of vertical stones (edge runners) in adjoining mill houses.

Cork County Council developed the site into a regional park in the 1980s and in 1993 opened a visitors' centre together with a working mill, installed by Fred Hamond. Sadly the centre proved uneconomic and closed down in 2002. However, although access to the incorporating mills area is not possible, visitors can walk the length of the park along the main arterial canal and see the ruins of many of the old buildings associated with the gunpowder mills. These include a charcoal mill, sawmill, a huge circular coal store and two magazines at the eastern end, a boiler house in the middle for drying the powder and the weir and a circular watch house next to Inniscarra Bridge at the western end.

Ballincollig Heritage Association has erected informative map signs at either end of the park which can be downloaded from their website.

http://www.ballincolligheritage.org/site_gunpowder_mills.html

Jenny Webb, Chair of BHA is willing to give tours of the site on request. If readers are interested in further reading, Jenny has co-written a book on the site: *Ballincollig Royal Gunpowder Mills: (Nonsuch Ireland-now the History Press, 2006)*. See also article on 'The Royal Gunpowder Mills' by Donal O'Sullivan in *MMOI Newsletter No.3*.



Interior of reconstructed mill.

News from Mill Societies

Stephanie Bourke



Sussex Mills Group

www.sussexmillsgroup.org.uk

The April 2011 Sussex Mills Group Newsletter is no 150 in the series of quarterly bulletins – a fine achievement. Robin Jones has also sent on the July issue in which he continues to seek someone to take over the role of editor from early 2012, when he will step down. Both the April and July issues carry round-ups of news from individual mill sites, such as the restoration of the 52ft high Ockley Windmill in Surrey; outings and open days. Nutley Windmill opened specially for the Royal Wedding on 29 April with up to sixty visitors on the day. The July issue carries a report by James Tasker on the Sussex Hydropower Group. OVESCO, the Ouse Valley Energy Services Company, which promotes local renewable energy projects, organised an information meeting in January 2011, where turbine types, funding and the regulatory process were discussed. A representative of the Mendip Power Group described the installation of a vertical Kaplan turbine at a watermill site with a 2.47 m head of water.. An Archimedes Screw installation at another site, although less efficient than some turbine types, was considered a better educational resource as it can be observed by visitors. In Britain, there is a Feed-in-Tariff scheme in place since 2010 to help with the investment required for renewable energy projects. The regulatory process can be daunting and issues have now also arisen as the Valuation Office Agency seeks to impose business rates on mills which generate above the average 3kw needed for domestic use. More than 20,000 watermill sites exist in the UK and while the greatest potential is from sites in Scotland and on the west coast, Sussex can also get involved.



Le Monde des Moulins FDMF Federation of French Mills

www.fdmf.fr

Magazines no.s 36 & 37, from the Federation of French Mills, dated April and July 2011 have arrived since our last Grist to the Mill. Mill restoration projects and mills open to the public are profiled as are 'mills in difficulty'. The 14/15 May were marked in many European countries this year as Mills Heritage week-end; the event taking place in France for the 5th consecutive year. More than four hundred sites were open to the public during the days with the aim of familiarising and publicising all aspects of wind and water powered mills. In France, the organisers linked up with France-Hydro and *Moleriae*, the association based in La Ferté sous Jouarre. *The dates for 2012 have been set as 19 & 20 May – we should endeavour in Ireland to become part of this movement.* In the April issue, there is an

article on traditional sugar and coffee mills of Haiti, emphasising their vulnerable status.

Quelle surprise! What a (pleasant) surprise to turn to page 23 and see the title *Le Moulin Martry (Irlande)*. James and Nuala Tallon received Charles Girardeau to Martry for an impromptu and whistle-stop visit at the end of February, when the treasurer of the French group was briefly in Ireland. The welcome by Nuala and James is described in superlative terms; Mills and Millers gets a large mention and the history of Martry is described for all our 'celtique' cousins to peruse. *Le Monde des Moulins* published a piece about Templetogether Mill in a previous magazine.

We are delighted and welcome this collaboration.



International Molinology (IM) No.82, June 2011 TIMS

www.molinology.org

The June 2011 issue of IM, the publication of The International Molinology Society (TIMS) carries its usual selection of interesting and informative papers and communications. Owen Ward, well known for his research and writings on millstones and millstone quarries, writes about millstone makers at Epernon, west of Paris. Other titles include a study of Hydraulic Dredging in New Zealand and Late Iron Age Rotary Querns from German and neighbouring Czech Quarries. Two papers in particular caught this reader's attention. Firstly, a research paper on Portuguese Tide Mills - their operation, energy generation and flour production by Hartmut Wittenberg wittenberg@uni.leophana.de

Most of these mills were equipped with horizontal wheels - early turbines-precursors of the Pelton (jet-driven impulse type) or Francis (submerged impeller type) turbine. Tide mills, documented since the 13th century, were located in bays or estuaries and their mill pond *caldeira*, 2-5 hectares in surface area, usually only 1metre deep was a vital part of the site. It was possible to mill for 2-5 hours on each tide and the reliability of the water source made them more efficient than wind or water mills. Six and up to 12 pairs of millstones were used in such mills. Those wishing to see for themselves can visit the Seixal Municipal Eco Museum on the west coast which incorporates the Corroious tide mill or the *Moinho de Marin* in the Ria Formosa area on the Algarve coast. The other eye-catching article which supplies the front and back page cover images for the Journal, concerns the life and artistic output of Ukrainian Georgiy Malakov (1928-1979). Malakov illustrated books, magazines, stories and poems. Perhaps because his grandfather who was a Greek was in the milling business, Malakov too was interested in mills and many of his watercolours depict mills, both wind and water at places in the Ukraine such as Polstvyn, Sokilets, Nemyriv and in the Kaniv district.

Spring Event 2011

For our Spring outing on 9 April last we gathered in the hospitable and industrious environment of Fancroft Mill and Gardens, close to Roscrea on the border, literally, of counties Tipperary and Offaly. Irene and Marcus Sweeney were our hosts for the day and they had also extended an invitation to Sven Richter and Jochen Koehler who worked on the Fancroft Mill conservation project. The guests from Weimar in Germany came with their families and added a European dimension to the event.

Tea, coffee, scones and jams which greeted us on arrival were most welcome and the fifty or so members and friends in attendance had to be persuaded to adjourn to the meeting room and the formal business of the day.

Mr George Cunningham, well known local historian joined us for the morning to give an overview of the locality and the history of Fancroft Mill. He described Fancroft as being part of an island parish in the diocese of Ossery. The Diocese of Killaloe was just 'next door' and in all probability, there had been a mill at the site in Norman times. The Pym Family was associated with the mill from the late 1700's and for nearly 100 years. Subsequently, it was owned or operated by Bergins, Murrays, Hastings and latterly Angela Jupe.



Fancroft Mill from the mill yard, wheel visible in bottom centre opening.

In his presentation, Marcus told us that Jack Bergin was the last miller in Fancroft and that a major restoration had taken place in 1883 when a new wheel and set of stones were installed. Our previous event at Fancroft was for the 2008 AGM and on that occasion Marcus had outlined plans and hopes for the mill and gardens which he and Irene had purchased in 2006. Some months later, in

April 2009, a German-Irish Chamber of Industry and Commerce conference on micro hydro-power was a catalyst for a study trip to Weimar by Marcus and other MMOI members to visit hydro installations by Sven Richter at mill sites.

A lot had happened since then: feasibility study; discussions with the Local Authorities, Conservation and Heritage Officers; applications for grant-aid; sourcing materials in Ireland and Germany. High points along the way have been September 2009 when the waterwheel turned for the first time in 60 years and November 2010 when wheat was run through the stones. A bat survey was also undertaken. Having begun to

research bats, Marcus admitted to now being fascinated by the subject and proud to confirm the existence of five species at Fancroft of the nine or ten habitually found in Ireland. A history of Fancroft is a project for the medium term and any information members might be able to contribute would be most welcome.

Sven Richter, who has worked on hydro installations in Chile, Panama, Afganistan and Italy gave us a presentation on the types of project he has been involved in around the world. He is now a regular visitor to Ireland involved on several projects in the 32 counties as the EU seeks to double the output from renewable energy sources. Waterways Ireland have identified some 140 sites with potential.

Fiac O Brolchain of Water Power Services was present at Fancroft. He had been involved in three schemes in 2010 and there were three applications pending for 2011. Low rates per unit of electricity generated remained a barrier to the high investment required.

Following lunch at large circular tables in the Mill Tea Rooms we were invited to break into groups - some to begin with a tour of the mill with Marcus and others to discover the gardens. In the end, everybody did everything and it would be difficult to have to choose between the two options. The power of the water - the mill is on a tributary of the Little Brosna River - is evident in the mill buildings of course but the tranquil presence of water in the courtyard and throughout the gardens is an unexpected bonus. Irene Sweeney's passion and energy have been nurturing this beautiful place since 2006 and it is indeed special. Both the mill and gardens are open to the public by appointment and we will be watching keenly for new projects which are bound to unfold.



Fancroft-New millstone enclosure and hopper.

Full Circle

Kevin O'Reilly

The old concrete steps leading down to our mill lean against a very sharp incline. When we got to the bottom my father still held onto my hand, his tightened grip suggesting the presence of further danger. As children we were never allowed down alone to the mill grounds as it was well out of sight of the dwelling house and considered a place of peril. But on this day after more than a fair share of persistent pleading I was about to get a guided viewing of the great wheel, that pulsating piece of power that for so long had enchanted my young ears was about to be revealed to my eyes.

The mill was in action, the muffled hum of its many hoppers making its way out through the main doors as we passed by. All around the raw rush of water hissed and spilled in a song of sound, the race, the river, the splash of the bywash. On rounding the corner he paused, stalling our step in the soft sodden leaves of ash and sycamore. There, along the lower wall it turned, the broad buckets plunging earthwards, its tarred timbers washed by the waters that flow from the far off lakes of Bawn and Lough Sillan. I stood watching, enthralled by the sight which stirred to life an illustration of a Mississippi steamboat that I had seen in my older sister's schoolbook. But this was for real. My gaze hardly moved as we made our way closer to where the wild waters of the race had its torrent suddenly tamed, silenced in a deep swelling pool as it came to an uncertain stop against the sluice gate that policed its flow. Captured in this simmering cauldron floating foam and twigs and leaves of unease skimming across its surface the turbulent water sought escape before finding its freedom in a steady spill as each bucket gulped with unquenchable thirst.

Here on the firm footing of this mossy bank I knew we stood in the presence of great power. Behind me the river Annalee, swollen by November floods swept along in heightened haste on its way to the immortal waters of the west. Before me the great black semicircle turned along its trojan way and for a fleeting moment I had a vision of an enslaved wheel of labour that at sometime was lured to this very spot, buried waist deep, destined to turn for all time. But as my gaze followed its outer ring rise slowly from the very earth, slide gracefully above my head before sweeping downwards again, its movements appeared effortless, its exertions a mere labour of love. It turned, steady as a ship, the stout spokes resting on its central pivot where its great axel cried little complaint.

My father gestured to the filling bucket, the water pouring fourth in bountiful abundance. “That wheel”, he pointed out, “that wheel’ll never stop turnin’”. His tone held a hint of self assurance, an affirmed truth that none would dispute. Anyway who would dare doubt the words of a man in his mid sixties to his young son, a man who had worked all his life in the adjoining building given that his father and grandfather had milled there before him. His words went without saying. This was the mill that produced the oaten meal that filled our bellies night and morning. Every day after dinner the big pot of stirrabout simmered for hours on the kitchen cooker to be later dished out in tin ponjers with sweet milk or buttermilk.



Millstone resting at Lurganboy Mill on the Annalee River, County Cavan.

His words would have been welcome to the two men who trod the bare floorboards within, happy in the knowledge that their jobs were secure in those empty days of the early nineteen sixties when the boat beckoned many of our youth across to England to search for work on the roads, big houses and hospitals of London and Birmingham. Welcome they would have been also to the farmers who arrived daily in horse and cart bringing their bags of corn, the grain of oats that throve with such vigour in the shallow sod of the clay bare hills around Maudabawn. Its continued operation would ensure their wellbeing into the future. The words that said so little spoke so much.

I scanned the turning force of this great colossus, this wheel that had been crafted by the admirable agents of old where man had excelled in the fine art of simplicity. This was my chance to size up its might, to ponder on its power, to dally on the edge of such danger, to marvel at each collision of water and wood, to see a race that had run so far so free suddenly build up against its will, to witness its wild joy of escape. We stood watching, lost in our own world of unspoken thought. No words were needed. The wheel itself spoke from its very core, humming out in the contentment of its toil, teasing the watchful listener with the secrets of its soul. I stood transfixed in my fathers grip savouring the spectacle, but'twas the rhythmic beat of spill...splash...spill...splash.... mesmerising the senses of even a seven year that had me held by the magic of its charm. Here, water and wood, two halves of the one whole were held together by mutual reverence, the river, provider of the water of life, the wheel, its head bowed in venerable respect to the flowing force. On this spot man and nature were merged as one in an entwined perpetual ceremony of baptism and matrimony. It had indeed traits of the eternal, a pairing that would never part.

Nearly fifty years on I'm inclined to think of that fateful day so long ago and to reflect on my fathers words. Did he really believe that nothing would change, that this would last long beyond his term? Was his but a mere dream that this mill would stretch for generations yet to come. Or did he sense a country on the cusp of change. Was he becoming aware of the introduction of prepackaged food, the breakfast cereal? Was his utterance a line of defiance in the face of that culture of change? Whatever which way I still believe his words were correct. The wheel still turns and has turned full circle, well figuratively at least. All across our land mill wheels that turned through the centuries are coming out of retirement, having themselves reinvented. These old mills, the majority of which have languished through their later years on many a briared bank of abandonment are awakening to a world now needing all the help it can get in providing a cheap source of energy. Their revival in a new direction and power of generation is now recognised.

In looking to the future we should sometimes look to the past, indeed the past is often masked in our present. The wheel of fate turning along on its inevitable way often throws up themes of the familiar. The oatenmeal that kept our forefathers in such good stead is now hailed by modern nutritionists as a must have food for the promotion of good health. The bare floorboards which at one time were the grim preserve of the poor are now the fashion fad in the dwelling houses of the present. The occasional horse and gig that grace the mill lane after an absence of over forty years could be forgiven for thinking that they had invented this delightful form of carriage. The scourge of emigration is once again a blight on our land. Our airports

are thronged with departing youth where mothers shed tears of sweet sorrow in the long embrace of farewell, uncertainty written on many of the young faces, some of whom will never return.

The river Annalee sweeps along on its inexhaustible search for the sea, be it laden by the wild troubled waters of winter or stealing through shallow pools of summer shade beneath the leafy branches of larch and alder. It journeys along on its tireless way all the time keeping a watchful eye on the makeover our mill is now receiving, wondering how much longer it will take on its extended break and when it will be once again called to put its shoulder to the wheel.

Glimpses of our past, especially those of higher significance, live long past the age of youth and childhood, etched for all time on the inner eye. Tempered by the passage of time we assess them in order of importance as fine words or folly. My father's words hang in the balance, batted from side to side by economics, indecision, fear of commitment, and the overriding will to prove him true. Only the wheel of fate can tell when his prophetic words will be fulfilled.

Kevin O'Reilly, MMOI member, Cavan.



Winter scene, Lurganboy Mill, County Cavan.

Mill Matters

Mills for sale in the property pages of our newspapers are always eye-catching. In the recent past, a mill built by the Jackson family in the 1840's at Bowelk House, Ballybay County Monaghan was for sale in April. The Jacksons were associated with the linen industry and the mill was later converted to a corn mill. In May, the Mill House at Ballinameesda, Kilbride County Wicklow appeared. While the latter has been restored and was in use as a craft showroom, the mill at Bowelk is in need of work. At the end of June, Teelings or Clavinstown Mill, Drumree, County Meath sold at public auction. The mill dates from the early 1800's and was originally associated with the McNamara family. The auction was described as 'lively' perhaps in some small way due to the presence of some MMOI members! Finally, we were glad to learn that Hutchinson's Mill, Kells, County Kilkenny, which has been for sale for some time, has found new owners. The 13 bay, five-storey former flour mill is in a beautiful setting on the King's River, adjacent to the Augustinian priory and Mullins Mill where the Society enjoyed a memorable visit in 2002.

Dyan Mill for sale

This fine water mill which has been the subject of extensive refurbishment works is now on the market. See the following web address for further details and photographs. http://www.btwcainns.com/property_specific.aspx?ID=18683

This mill is on the cover of Newsletter 4 and was the venue for our AGM in October 2005.

Sion Mills, Co. Tyrone damaged by fire.

It was sad to hear on National news of a large fire in Herdmans Mill, Sion Mills. The fire started in the early hours of Saturday morning, July 30th last. The main mill building pictured on the cover of Newsletter No.3, and discussed inside, has suffered extensive damage to the upper two floors and roof. The cause of the fire is not yet known. The society had a very interesting visit round the extensive premises including the large hydro scheme in the summer of 2003.

The Mills Archive Trust.

The society receives a copy of the twice annual newsletter of the Mills Archive Trust of the UK, titled 'Mill Memories'. This trust has been established to store, preserve and catalogue mill related information. It is based in Reading, England where records can be examined. Details of membership and about the trust are available on their website; www.millsarchive.com

THE FIRM OF JOHNSTON, MOONEY & O'BRIEN

Enda MacMahon



*Johnston Mooney & O' Brien bought a horse for one an' nine,
When the horse began to kick, Johnston Mooney bought a stick,
When the stick began to break, Johnston Mooney bought a rake,
When the rake began to rust, Johnston Mooney bought a bus,
When the bus began to stop, Johnston Mooney bought a shop.*

So goes the old Dublin children's rhyme, harking back to the days of bread deliveries by horse and cart. The well known bakery business of Johnston, Mooney & O'Brien is also mentioned in the literary works of Joyce, Beckett and James Plunkett.

The firm was formed by the amalgamation in 1889 of three of the larger Dublin bakery and milling businesses of Johnston & Co., Ballsbridge, T.O'Brien, Leinster St., and Clonliffe Mills of Jones Road.

John Johnston (1795-1865) was from Kircudbright in Scotland. He and his wife, Jean McKewn (1798-1881), had three sons, John Brown Johnston (1818-1883), Robert McKewn Johnston (1824-1873) and James Sproat Johnston (1828-1882) and four daughters. Two of his daughters married members of the Scottish Findlater family, owners of the well known and extensive grocery and off-licence business, Alex Findlater & Co., of Dublin. The Johnston family appear to have come to Dublin about 1826 where later John Johnston had a commission agency at 16 Eustace Street. His second son, Robert, became a baker and he is listed on Thom's Directory as having a premises in Bride Street in 1846. The company of Johnston & Co. is first mentioned in Thom's for 1850, incorporating Robert Johnston's Bride Street premises as well as the Ballsbridge premises. The Ballsbridge property later contained two mills leased from John Duffy who had used them as a calico manufactory and printers. In 1853 a case was taken by Duffy against the Johnstons for non performance of the lease in not relocating the mill wheel. The Johnstons successfully defended the claim by arguing that they were not in contravention of the lease as Duffy had not deepened the race as required. The shops owned by the firm increased over the years to eight while their business took on board the latest technology, being described latterly as machine bread and biscuit makers. Robert McKewn Johnston died in 1873. His elder brother, John Brown Johnston, continued to run the business until he died in 1883. Ownership of their business passed to the extended family with Robert Gardner (1838-1920), founding

partner of Craig Gardner accountants, and son-in-law of John Brown Johnston, at the helm.

John Mooney (1841-1923) was born in Enniscorthy, the third surviving son of John Mooney (1795-1854) and his wife, Ann (1807-1876). His father was a shoemaker in the town and John started his working life in the local flour mills, probably those of the Davis family. He moved to Dublin and worked in Johnston's bakery in Ballsbridge. He left Johnstons when offered the job as a manager at Patrick Boland's mills. In 1883 he took the lease on the Clonliffe Mills at Jones Road. That mill had been built by William Todd of Orwell Road, and leased to his son, Andrew in 1881. William Todd's executors took legal action against Andrew Todd for non payment of two years rent, amounting to £2,000. William Todd had built the mill in 1858 and erected a bakery with the mills. John Mooney continued baking as well as the milling of flour there. He replaced the traditional mill stones with modern steel rolling grinders.



Image of T.O'Brien's premises on 7 Leinster St., from Shaws 1850 Directory.

Very little can be found about the O'Brien family. Timothy O'Brien (1809-1883) commenced business in 1835 as a fancy bread and biscuit maker of 17, Park Street East, now Lincoln Place. He later moved to 20 Park Street East, before taking a premises around the corner at 7 Leinster Street in 1846. He was also a partner in a flour merchant's business, MacMullen, Shaw & Co. at 11/12 Burgh Quay. One of the other partners was Henry Shaw (1819-1884), uncle of George Bernard Shaw. An innovator, Timothy O'Brien won a gold medal in 1846 for his bread made from Indian corn meal, and a mention in 1847 for bread made using beetroot. When he died his two sons William O'Brien (1839-1922) and

Joseph Henry O'Brien were involved in the business, though it would appear without any great drive.

John Johnston's sons-in-law, John Findlater, managing director of Alex Findlater, and husband of Mary Johnston (1833-1917), and John Malcolm Inglis, director of Heitons Ltd., husband of Caroline Johnston (1838-1907) and Robert Gardner, realising that baking was not their area of expertise, suggested the amalgamation of Johnston & Co., with T.O'Brien and John Mooney's Clonliffe Mills. This happened in 1889 as a consequence of which the newly incorporated business had its own flour mills on the Jones Road, a machine bakery at Ballsbridge, as well as Johnston's and O'Brien's retail shops throughout the city. The company offices were at 7 Leinster Street. The first directors were the three Johnston sons-in-law, with William and Joseph O'Brien, and John Mooney. Mooney was the one with the expertise and

inclination to drive the business and was appointed the managing director on the not inconsiderable salary of £1,200 per annum. And drive the business he did. He introduced new mechanisation much to the dissatisfaction of the operatives and modernised the plant. In 1899 the Irish Investor listed Johnston Mooney & O'Brien as the fourth most profitable Irish public company after Guinness, the Royal Bank and the Irish Times.

John Mooney's son John Junior (1868-1921) joined the business and was joint managing director with his father until John Junior's early death.

John Senior continued as managing director for another two years until he died. He was the last surviving of the original directors, as William O'Brien (1839-1922), the second last of the original directors, had died the previous year.

In 1935 Johnston, Mooney & O'Brien was the first company to wrap bread in Ireland and in 1948 it introduced slicing. In 1956 W.P. & R.Odlum of Laois bought into the firm and by 1963 the Odlum family owned 93% of the company. In 1972 Odlums reduced their holding to 54%, selling the remainder of the shares to R.& H. Hall of Waterford. The last expansion saw the company acquire Downes Bakery, and the Butterkrust brand, in 1987. In 1989 the removal of fixed pricing of bread by Ray McSharry saw the company suffer financial difficulties. Four of the managers attempted to take over the firm but it went into liquidation later that year and its assets were sold off. 485 people lost their jobs. The brands were bought by Clonee Bakery, along with the delivery fleet and a depot on the Kylemore Road. The sale of the Ballsbridge premises to Telecom Eireann was a cause celebre of its time and the subject of the Glackin Report.

Currently the Johnston, Mooney & O'Brien brands are made at a plant on the Jamestown Road, Finglas, in what was the old Joseph Downes Bakery. The Johnston, Mooney and O'Brien families are all buried in Mount Jerome Cemetery in Dublin. Though the last member of the families ceased to be involved with business in 1923, the brand that was created in 1889 has proved to be worth preserving.



Advertisement for T.O'Brien in Henry Shaw's 1850 Directory of Dublin.



*An old Johnston Mooney & O'Brien Electric Van at Dromod.
Photo by S.Bourke.*

Principal Sources

Irish Times Prospectus for Johnston Mooney & O'Brien, 4 Dec.1889

Irish Times Company history, 28 Feb.1989

Findlater, *The Story of a Dublin Merchant Family, 1774-2001* by Alex Findlater, A.& A.Farmer, 2001

Feng Shui & Mills

Ken Bourke

After the recent MMOI excursion to Fancroft Mill, I got the notion to write a short piece about the connections between mills and the practice of Feng Shui. The words Feng Shui actually mean Wind and Water, two elements that are close to the hearts and minds of millers everywhere, so I thought there might be more here than meets the eye.

Since Feng Shui is a traditional practice with a lot of folk-lore attached to it, I did some browsing around the internet to look for old sayings and proverbs about mills and milling. I found a storehouse of these at www.angelfire.com/journal/millrestoration/sayings.html. I was on the lookout for anything that would connect with the idea of the energy of the landscape, but I came across some things I didn't expect to find.

I hope the readership won't be offended if I quote a number of interesting sayings:

"Every honest miller has a golden thumb, well could he steal." (*Chaucer*)

"You can never tell upon whose grain the miller's pig was fattened" *Old English Proverb*

"The miller's hogs were always fat" *Old American saying*

"No miller can enter heaven" *Old Normandy saying*

"One who on earth has been a miller tells nought but lies afterward" *Old Normandy saying*

It is plain that, in the past at least, millers suffered from a rather poor reputation. People clearly felt that the miller's prosperity was not entirely due to his own industry, and that some of customer's wealth was being "creamed off" for the miller's benefit. Obviously, I can't comment on the truth or otherwise of these assertions - let sleeping millers lie - but I can suggest that Feng Shui may cast some light on the subject.

From a Feng Shui perspective, the energy - and prosperity - of the landscape is strongly connected to its water-courses. Fast-moving water, travelling in a straight line, is generally considered unfavourable; stagnant water is likewise unpopular; a meandering water-course, with occasional pools and small water-falls, is regarded as conducive to prosperity.

The typical water-mill complex seems to combine aspects of all three of the above, with its mill-pool - sometimes still, sometimes active, and its mill-race - gushing along. The crucial factor is the miller, the one who controls this "water-dragon", and thereby presides over the prosperity of the surrounding countryside.

So if you're a miller, and someone makes a disparaging remark about your apparent wealth, you can just shrug and tell them it's not really your fault; it's just Feng Shui.

Editors note; Ken Bourke is by turns a playwright, a creative writing coach, and a feng shui consultant.

Mills and Milling in the Barony of Tulla

Terri Shoosmith

Grain, iron and wool: working people, landowners and industry in east Clare by Terri Shoosmith, SPAHSS Research Fellow, NUI Galway.

This article, a summary of which is given below, is part of a PhD research dissertation on social structures and economic life in the Barony of Tulla, East Clare in the wake of the Cromwellian era, c 1670 to 1820.

In the course of her research, Terri Shoosmith realised that contemporary leases, surveys and descriptions of the Barony of Tulla contained numerous references to mills; tuck mills, beetling mills; grist and corn mills:

As I gathered more material together and began to build a picture of the period ... I realised that mills were not simply functional buildings but structures which could speak to us about political changes, the changing values of society and the survival of communities. (p1)

The Barony of Tulla, the article informs, dominated in the early 17th century by the McNamara family, stretches from the Galway border to the Shannon and from Sixmilebridge to Lough Derg and is the largest of the eight baronies in Clare. The catholic McNamaras



Converted mill at Sixmilebridge, County Clare.

lost land and position following the 1641-42 uprisings and were replaced by 'innocent papists' those who had not resisted Cromwell or English rule. Wet soils, a feature of the land in this region, meant that oats were the dominant crop

By the 1600s, ... most milling of grain in Ireland took place in the public mill, where people had to pay a fee to the lord as well as the miller. (p 2)

The author refers to Inquisitions of 1601, 1624 and the 1630's for evidence of the existence of mills prior to the devastation of the Cromwellian period and for the change of land ownership from the McNamaras to the O'Briens of Thomond.

In the early seventeenth century, the Earl of Thomond had created a new settlement at Sixmilebridge on the Owengarney River, a strong stream which was fed by mountain run-off as well as the many lakes upstream, within easy reach of the busy market and

administrative town of Ennis, the port at Clarecastle and the main trading route to Limerick (p3).

Depositions following the 1641 uprising studied by the author, show that Protestant settlers at Sixmilebridge were expelled from their homes and possessions which included watermills, a mill for bark; a malt house and tan yards, weaving and silver-smithing tools.

Evidence of milling activity in the Barony of Tulla in the 18th century has been gleaned from sources such as the 1703 Moland Survey of the Thomond Estates where two corn mills and a tuck mill were recorded at Cappagh, upriver from Sixmilebridge and the 1787 Pelham Grand Jury map which shows O'Callaghan's Mills and Bleach's Mills.

The article refers to two further mill-related industries of the 18th century. Iron extraction was a short-lived 18th century activity in the vicinity of Feackle in the north of the barony where the author has discovered evidence for ironworks and a hammer-mill fed by wood available from the Slieve Aughty mountains. Finally, the production of linen was encouraged in Ireland towards the end of the 18th century when grants for flax seed and spinning wheels were offered by the Trustees of the Irish Linen Manufacture. The author refers to the Statistical Survey of County Clare, compiled in 1808 by Hely Dutton and advertisements from, for example, the Clare Journal newspaper, to demonstrate the presence of a linen industry and fulling mills producing felt used for example to make hats.

Milling industries of the early 19th century were recorded by Samuel Lewis in his 1837 *History and Topography of County Clare* where oil and flour mills existed in Scariff, Killaloe and on Lough Derg, there was 'a mill, with machinery driven by water... erected at a cost of £6,000, for cutting and polishing stone and marble, and working them into mantel-pieces, flags, slabs and other articles' (p5)

In her conclusion to the article, Terri Shoosmith suggests that over the period 1670-1820 communities, despite devastation and dispossession adapted to a new social order showing themselves to be resilient and enterprising.

And the landscape itself, far from being an unspoilt rural backwater, was a busy place where small-scale industry worked hand in hand with farming to create a dynamic and diverse community. Very little evidence of the buildings remain in Tulla barony today. Mills formed a vital part of that community, and it is a great pity that so little is being done to preserve this fascinating aspect of Ireland's rural past (p6).

Editors' note: Our thanks to author Terri Shoosmith for her article and to John Lynch for the link to this research project.

Book reviews

Ogden, D & Bost, G Ganzel & Wulff, The Quest for American Milling Secrets The International Molinological Society, 2010

This publication is number 20 in the *Bibliotheca Molinologica* series which began in 1975. The work, compiled and written by Derek Ogden and Gerald Bost has been edited by Tony Bonson and is indeed a fascinating piece of literature and undoubtedly a 'labour of love' to those involved. Friedrich Wulff and Carl Friedrich Ganzel were two student engineers at Prussia's Industrial Institute who on the 1 August 1827 set off from Berlin via Le Havre to collect information on American mills and milling technology with a view to improving and expanding Prussia's milling industry. They returned to Europe and Berlin via Liverpool and Hamburg on 1 July 1829. Their mission was to gain hands-on experience by working in mills, which they achieved and to record their findings through descriptions and drawings. Their Report, in German, was published in 1832 and reprinted in 1837, but did not include all their technical drawings which were available separately for industry use. This 2010 publication is the first to reproduce all the drawings and is the first English translation. The work is further enhanced by the authors comments and the use of contemporary illustrations of mills along their route. The result is indeed 'extraordinary' on the core subject of mills and milling in the early 19th century and the added value of enduring technical, historical, social, artistic and travel knowledge.

'Smithies of Ireland of the 19th century' by William Hogg. The publication has an introduction and explanation of the contents and is a 32 county list of 'Smithies' compiled from records in Ordnance Survey, Griffiths valuation and other sources and gives the reader an idea of Irish industrial activity in the 19th century insofar as this group is concerned. The Smithy was considered a most industrious and important person in the community. In times of unrest and revolution he was called upon to make swords, pikes and other weapons. Little wonder as the author points out, that in all of Ireland only 164 blacksmiths were registered in 1843 – it certainly wasn't wise to indicate your existence to the authorities. This reference is arranged by county and alphabetically by parish then by townland with the name if known of the smithy, details of his property, valuation and where found in official records. An added aid is the easy find index of smithies to the rear. As with the previous publication, this is of use to the genealogist, local history societies and the reference shelf of the county library. Certainly a valuable reference aid and the reader should note that Smithies established from 1900 are not mentioned. Publication available by contacting the Secretary of MMOI. Price €10 does not include postage.

Shackleton's of Lucan

From the Dublin Evening Herald, reprinted in a supplement to *The Miller*, August 1910

(Editor's note: Irish firms were rarely profiled in The Miller magazine. This article from 101 years ago has recently come to our attention)

'The name of the firm of Shackleton is written pretty large in the Irish milling trade. Ever since Richard Shackleton, so long ago as 1778, bought the Ballytore Mills, the firm has successfully defied foreign competition and is largely responsible for the present growing recognition of the fact that Irish flour is in the end both cheaper and better than American or other imported stuff. The effects of this foreign competition are to be seen all over the country, and the ruined mills to be met with everywhere tell an eloquent and painful story. But Shackleton's have kept well up the level of the time, and they are able and entitled to boast that their business is a growing one. And it is interesting to note that the founder of a big business was hardly by training a business man for his father was a schoolmaster, who had the high distinction of giving our illustrious countryman, Edmund Burke, his early education. The Ballytore Mills did good business but in the middle of the last century it became necessary to annex the Lyons Mills near Straffan, still working, but now on the improved roller system. In 1860, further business led to the acquisition of the Anna Liffey Mills at Lucan, in which all modern improvements may be found. The machinery is quite up to date; the power is supplied by the Liffey, and directly or indirectly, a large number of people obtain employment. The lighting and ventilation are exceptionally good and the comfort of the workers is better assured than in the majority of flour mills. Visitors to Lucan, as a rule, are only interested in the picturesque surroundings, but the Anna Liffey Mill is not the least interesting object in the landscape. One of the secrets of the success of Messrs. Geo. Shackleton and Sons is the thorough cleaning of the wheat. The Grange Mills, near Lucan, also belong to the firm, and grind about 50 tons of meal per week, the proximity of the Grand Canal meaning a considerable saving in carriage.'

'The prosperity of Lucan is very largely identified with the Hill and Shackleton families, who are held in high esteem by all classes of the community'.



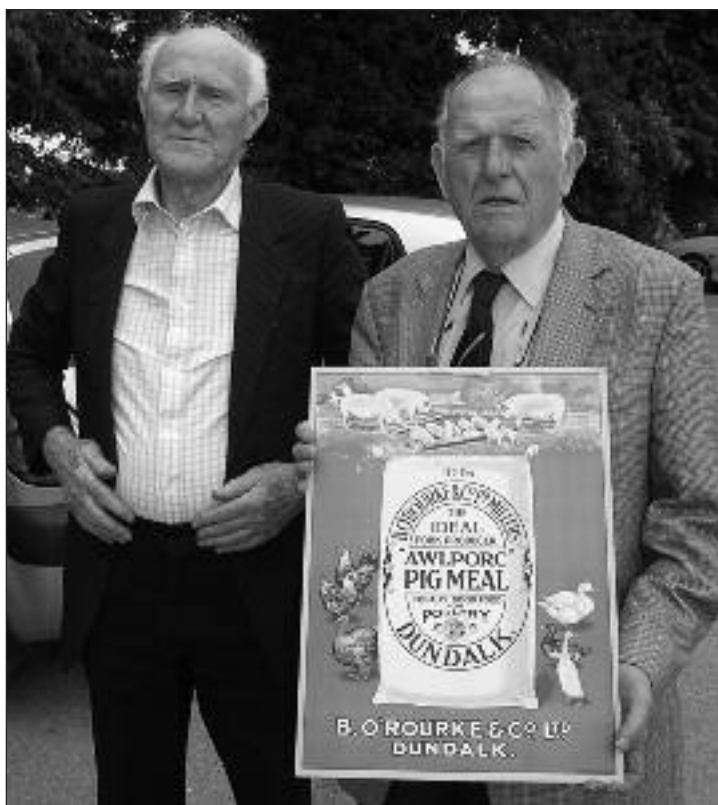
Turbine Advertisement taken from 'The Miller', dated May 1st 1911. One hundred years later the company is still going strong and in the same location.

O'Rourke's of Innishkeen & Dundalk

Simon Lancaster

The cover advertisement of Newsletter No.18 was a product of B.O'Rourke & Co. of Dundalk and Innishkeen. A small piece of their history was mentioned in a recent edition of the Dundalk Democrat. More than this I had no further knowledge.

This has now changed, a meeting was arranged, facilitated by our Louth correspondent- Gerry Doherty, with Clinton O'Rourke. Clinton O'Rourke owned and operated both mills up to their closure. Over a very lengthy lunch Gerry and myself learned much about the two mills, the products, family and workers involved and the early use of turbines to drive the Innishkeen mill and to produce electricity



Clinton O'Rourke (Holding 'Awlporc' advertisement), and Gerry Doherty. Photo. S.Lancaster

from 1918 onwards. Imagine having electric light in a mill, hot water and heat by electric in your house next door when the rest of the world round about would have to wait for another 30 years.

The Innishkeen mill dates back to 1750 but the O'Roukes did not become involved until after 1865 when control of the mill was taken in lieu of unpaid monies lent to the previous owner. This mill, powered by two overshot waterwheels on the Fane river, carried out a variety of operations from scutching, oat flaking, to flour milling and animal foods. Clinton's grandfather Patrick ran the mill in this period. Then Clinton's father Bernard (Barney) carried on. Bernard had great interest in water turbines, the first was installed in 1908/9 but was replaced twice in about 10 years until a German Turbine was settled on in 1918. This was made in Liepzig and cost 44,000 Marks. In 1922 the second waterwheel was replaced by a Robert Craig of Belfast turbine. This turbine was a copy of the German turbine and cost £130. The governor from the German turbine was sold back to Craigs for half of the cost of the new turbine. Apparently it had been useless as a governor but good for business. These two turbines then powered the mill until closure in 1975. At times of low water they were supplemented by 2 oil engines.

In 1978 Clinton O'Rourke took advantage of having a mill with two turbines and arranged them to be grid connected. Each turbine had an 18 inch runner, a 13 foot head was available, this gave a theoretical power of 42.7 BHP. This then produced an income with very little outlay until the decision was made in 1990 to sell the Innishkeen mill. The new owner did carry on generating but a storm in 2005 resulted in the weir feeding the mill collapsing and it has not been rebuilt. The two turbines still remain insitu but in a declining mill building.

A school project about Innishkeen shows pictures and a brief story about O'Rourke's. This can be viewed on www.patrickkavanagschoolproject.ie/pdfs/mill/pdf

The Dundalk mill was established by others prior to the O'Rourke's buying. It was originally a waterpowered mill by the Rampart river but all the time during the O'Rourke ownership, until been sold in 1980, it was engine powered. Originally by a 100HP Marshall steam engine. This mill then passed through the firms of O'Hare of Newry, Pattons Mills of Monaghan and Kavanagh of Maynooth- all these companies are closed and gone. The Dundalk mill is demolished only the engine house remains.

Numerous other bits and pieces, stories and mill miscellany were discovered which I will endeavour to put into some order for publishing.

My thanks to Clinton O'Rourke for coming out and putting up with my questions and also Gerry Doherty for being interested in saving these small pieces of history that would easily be lost.

Summer 2011 Event, County Waterford

Our two-day meeting on 25/26 June, organised by Anne Berney, Wexford, brought us to the south east and an opportunity not only to explore mills and mill sites but to gain an overall impression of the rich industrial heritage of the county.



'MMOI members with John and Mary Flahavan, outside Kilnagrange Mills, Kilmacthomas'. Photo. Dave Pearson.

John Flahavan and his wife Mary were our hosts at Flahavan's of Kilmacthomas where we gathered on Saturday morning to begin the week-end event. John gave a presentation on the origins of the mill at Kilmacthomas which has been in the Flahavan family for five generations. The name is synonymous with oats and oat products and this focus has been important to the success of the company. Current aims centre on the development of one to two new products each year, on consistent quality and the goal of becoming carbon neutral. Dan Twomey had come over from Banteer for the day as he was responsible for the refurbishment of the original 1935 Gilkes turbine which produces c20kw towards the energy needs of the business. A wind turbine is also part of John Flahavan's overall plan to be self-sufficient in energy and carbon neutral.



Lavender fields at Fairbook.

The water flow at the heart of the Flahavan business is the Mahon River, only about ten miles in length from its source in the Comeragh Mountains and the spectacular Mahon Falls to Bunmahon on the coast. Sean Murphy, an expert on the history of the area, gave us a most interesting talk on the industrial sites on the river and their current status. Apart from Flahavan's, there were two other mills in Kilmacthomas itself; Walsh's Mill now rebuilt as apartments and the former woollen mill where Lady Waterford of Curraghmore Estate set up a weavers' school in the mid 19th century. We had a look at the latter after our lunch in Kiersey's in the town. The mill is a fine building on the banks of the river now in public ownership and awaiting a future. The other dominant influence on the history and development of Kilmacthomas was the railway. The opening of the Waterford to Cork line entailed the construction of the fine 8-arch stone viaduct over the River Mahon which was completed in 1878 and still dominates the town.



Comeragh Flour/Saw Mill

Our next stop was up-river and an opportunity to view the 21st century technology of the Mahon River Hydro Power station. The power of the river through its fall of c. 1500ft has been harnessed and channelled to a US made turbine, which was producing 366kw(this day) before rejoining the main water course and flowing through Kilmacthomas. We were needless to say 'in awe'.

It was a short distance but what a contrast when we walked into the calm and beautiful setting of Fairbrook House, Kilmeaden, our final visit of the day. Clary

Mastenbroeck, in her book, *Fairbrook, from Woollen Mill to a Work of Art*, recounts how she and her husband Wout Muller, who sadly died in 2000 came to Ireland from The Netherlands in the 1992 in search of a home and place to work. The former woollen mill comprising Fairbrook House and seven acres was a daunting undertaking.

The two internationally known artists set to work to restore the house and create a garden incorporating structural remains of the mill and reusing materials and water courses. The result is an artists' haven and a beautiful environment. Fairbrook Museum of Contemporary Figurative Art and Gardens is open by appointment from May to September.



Canyon Turbines, Deming, Washington, USA. Rated at 740kW

Sunday morning brought us to Portlaw, formerly known as *Cotton Town* and latterly associated with a tannery and the headquarters of Irish Leathers. We were warmly welcomed by our hosts for the morning, Gerard Crotty, Chair and William Power Committee member, Portlaw Heritage Centre. An objective of the Centre, located in the former dispensary and looking across at the mill site is to establish an archive of the industrial, social and cultural history of Portlaw. The cotton mill established by the Malcomson family in the 1820's was on a grand scale and employed up to 1000 people by the late 1830's. As part of the construction, a canal was built to link the water source, the Clodagh River with the Suir to permit the transport of goods in and out. There were reportedly 385 windows in the six-storey mill building. Looms and other processes were powered by four water wheels; there was a large

mill-pond and steam engines to augment the power supply of the wheels. The raw material was imported through Liverpool and shipped up from the coast to Portlaw to be spun, woven, dyed and bleached before being shipped out again as finished products. The enterprise which provided housing, school, dispensary and benevolent funds for the families of workers continued until 1876. Following a long gap, a tannery operated on the site from 1935 to 1985 when it also closed. The Heritage Centre is open to the public from May to September on Friday and Saturday afternoons and by arrangement at other times. All praise is due to the volunteers involved in Portlaw Heritage Centre.

An unexpected addendum to our event was an invitation from John Morris to visit the Copper Coast Geopark at Bunmahon with its focus on the 19th century copper mining industry. Despite adverse weather conditions – dense fog – thanks to John's contagious enthusiasm and interest we were introduced to a section of the Copper Coast Discovery Trail. Starting from the Geopark Centre at Knockmahon, we followed the route of the railway used to bring the ore down to the dressing yards at sea-level, up to the engine houses and chimney at Tankardstown. The Copper Coast is part of the European network of Geoparks, promoting educational and tourism interest and activities and a great series of walking routes.

All in all a great week-end. Thanks again to Anne Berney for putting the package together; to Flahavan's. Sean Murphy; Clary Mastenbroek, Portlaw Heritage Centre and John Morris, Bunmahon.



Portlaw Heritage Centre, June 2011

MMOI meets Heritage Officers, Bective Mill, 31 March 2011

MMOI was delighted when Liam Scott of the Heritage Council accepted an invitation on behalf of the group of Heritage Officers to meet us on the occasion of one of their plenary assemblies. In March last, the Officers were coming together in County Meath and expressed an interest in visiting a mill. Oliver Delaney, Bective Mill was more than willing to act as host for the afternoon and his hospitality was appreciated by all.

Individual members have worked closely with many of the Heritage Officers, however, the meeting in Bective was an opportunity for MMOI Chairperson, James Tallon, to present the Society's aims and objectives and give an outline of our activities and membership. In his response, Liam Scott, representing the Heritage Council, informed us that there are currently 28 Heritage Officers for 34 Local Authorities. Heritage Officers would welcome a flow of information from MMOI members (A) on mills and their status whether ruins, dwellings or open to the public and (B) folklore/stories from mills and about mills. Funding for conservation and work of conservation were discussed and while Section 482 is now no longer available, community-based projects are well placed to seek financial help from local, regional or national agencies. Information booklets on sources of funding; best practice on mill restoration and Department of the Environment Guidelines for listing of buildings would all be useful tools for the future. The Heritage Officers encouraged MMOI members to play an active role locally by participating in the preparation of County Heritage Plans and through submissions to their local Heritage Forum. Heritage Week is also an excellent opportunity to showcase our mills and mill sites.

The meeting was useful and convivial and hopefully marks the beginning of an ongoing collaboration.



Heritage offices in front of Bective mill, Co.Meath

CORN MILL		Measured for Valuation May 1853
County Kerry		Barony of Trughanackmy
Townland Curraheen		Parish of Annagh
Name of Miller : Michael Counihan		
Buildings :	House (3C) 12 x 17 x 6	(20 x 3¾) = 6/3d.
	More house (3C) 20.6 x 17 x 6	(3 x 2½) = 7/0d.
	Dairy (3C) 12 x 15 x 5.6	(18 x 2) = 3/0d.
	Cow shed (3C) 7.6 x 12.6 x 4	(9 x 1¼) = 11d.
	Grist mill (3C) 15.6 x 15 x 6	(23 x 1½) = 2/10d.
	No. 1. Tuckmill (3C) 14 x 15 x 6	(21 x 1½) = 2/7d.
	No. 2. Tuckmill (3C) 16.6 x 16 x 6	(26 x 4) = 8/8d.
Water Wheels : No. 2 Tuckmill, dia. 11ft., width of face 1ft. 4ins., depth of bucket 10 ins., number of buckets 28, revolutions per minute 17, velocity of water 6ft. per second, supply of water 10ins. x 4ins., fall of water 12ft.		Mill stones & machinery : 1 Pair Bettles length 5ft. 6ins., heads 12 x 12 x 24ins., length of shaft 9ft., raising the beetles 1ft. high each stroke, 2 sets cogs 4ins. Class of machinery C and the rudest construction.
Works : No head of water, a constant supply. Works constantly for 6 months night and day. Grist mill and no. 1 tuckmill filled with turf machinery, could not be seen. Idle water wheel in ruins.		
Record located in : <i>Valuation Office House Book,</i> County Kerry, Townland Curraheen, Book number 5.1185		Valuation : Water power £ - Buildings £1 11 4 Land £ -
A priceless old mill still active about 1850 ! This record is of a very old mill (ref. 3s); one at which Griffith's Valuation assesses the seven buildings below £2. Detail to clarify this has been included where it will be seen that the cow shed and two of the mills (unused) were valued at just over 1d. per sq. measure (i.e. 10 sq. feet) and the 2nd tuckmill (because of superior quality ?) at 4d. per measure. [We do believe the astute researcher can gather interesting information from Griffith's Valn. records !]. W.E.Hogg.		

Mills & Millers of Ireland – AGM 2011

Saturday 8 October

10.30am Registration, tea/coffee at the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown, Co Tyrone

11am Annual General Meeting

12 noon Linen Processes - a talk by Mr Norman Kerr

1pm Lunch at the Hotel

2.30pm Guided tour of Wellbrook Beetling Mill & visit of local mill site incorporating hydro-power installation

Full details of the day posted on the MMOI website www.millsofireland.org

For further information and bookings please contact the Honorary Secretary, Stephanie Bourke, 67 Hampton Green, Balbriggan, County Dublin.

Stephbourke@eircom.net

The Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland Autumn 2011

1 & 2 Oct Tour of the Shannon Estuary

Transport is the theme of the week-end which will take in West Clare Railway, Lartigue Monorail, Tarbert ferry crossing, Foynes Flying Boat Museum

See www.IHAL.ie for details

Membership of MMOI is open to individuals and organisations interested in mills and membership forms can be downloaded from the MMOI website www.millsofireland.org

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE:

Senior Citizen/Student	€15
Individual	€25
Family	€35
Overseas member	€35
Corporate member	€125
Life Membership	€250

Cheques to be made payable to MMOI and sent to:

Hon. Treasurer Anne Berney
Ballyconran, Craanford, Gorey,
County Wexford

Advertisement Rates

Grist to the Mill - the newsletter of the Mills & Millers of Ireland is a twice annual publication.

Advertisements can be accepted either in full colour or black & white.

We also offer a reduced rate for a series of insertions.

Further information:
slancaster@eircom.net

FULL COLOUR

Back cover	€160
Inside whole page	€140
Half page	€75
Quarter page	€40

BLACK & WHITE

Quarter page	€32
Half page	€60
Inside whole page	€112

FLAHAVAN'S[®]

Sets you up for life



Ireland's No 1 Porridge Oat Brand

WWW.FLAHAVANS.COM