

Bedingfield Mill researched by a Bedingfield pupil at Debenham High School in 1985

In 1985 Mr Cracknell is the present miller but he explained that over four generations of his family had once held his job and many other families had worked the mill through many more generations before that.

The original mill, a windmill, which was built by Arthur and Charlie Miles, was like most of the other neighbouring ones with the circle of brick at the bottom and the rest built up with wood which was all centred on one large post. This is how the mill got its name 'Post Mill'.



All the farmers in the village would bring their wheat in wagons drawn by horses. The wheat, of course, could not be ground at any time but only when there was a good wind which meant the miller might have to stay up all night so he would be able to deliver the flour in the morning. As the years rolled by, the wood began to rot and the mill disintegrated.

In 1916 during the First World War, the owners at the time began to rebuild the circular brick base, but by the time it was done, there was hardly any wood about to complete the mill. However, after the war the farmers wanted somewhere local to grind their wheat so the miller at the time built a brick building and installed a 'Hammer Mill' beside the original one. This was in 1921 and this time, instead of sails, the owners bought an engine which they knew would be much more efficient as they would not have to depend on the wind.

The engine which was used was an eighteen-horse power 'Ruston' with a huge fly-wheel measuring six feet across and weighing approximately two tons. It was set in a bed of concrete so that when in use it would not move about and fall over. Soon there was more business than ever before which meant lots more deliveries to be made so in 1930 the miller bought a model T Ford lorry with solid rubber tyres.



Over the next ten years he bought five more lorries and had his own petrol and diesel pumps to supply them with fuel. These were placed beside the road and the miller also sold fuel to the public.

In 1941 there was a terrible fire. The heat was said to have been felt from hundreds of yards away. This fire left the Hammer Mill in a poor state and it had to be completely rebuilt. This mill which was built over forty years ago is still in use.

The mill, standing beside the round house can be seen from the road.