

PRESS RELEASE

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Celebrate National Mills Weekend – May 10th and 11th 2008

More mills than ever before will be taking part in National Mills Weekend 2008. Organised each year by the dedicated Mills Section of SPAB (The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings), this year the event will see more than 300 wind and watermills open their doors to the public.

Not to be overlooked, mills open during this national festival in 2008 include a silk mill at Whitchurch in Hampshire, a woollen mill at Trefiw near Conwy in Wales and the country's largest water-powered cotton mill at Styal in Cheshire. Some working mills are more than 300 years old, yet are still efficiently doing the job they were built and designed for into the 21st century.

Many mills taking part will be running special family events and activities during the weekend, including demonstrations and the chance to buy flour and other produce made on the premises.

Simon Hudson, of SPAB's Mills Section says: "This event has grown year on year. We are delighted that so many mills are taking part in 2008. The popularity of National Mills Weekend shows how important these wonderful buildings are, both in terms of our national heritage and our landscape. And, with increasing interest in natural food production and sustainable power sources it's hardly surprising that people want to find out more."

Information about mills taking part in this year's event can be found at: www.nationalmillsweekend.co.uk
The site will include addresses (sat nav), contact details and, where applicable, website details.

An illustrated guide '**Mills Open**' which lists windmills and watermills which are usually open to the public is also available from SPAB Mills Section. Most of them will be open for National Mills Weekend.

Many of the mills open in May are run by members of the Traditional Corn Millers Guild www.tcmg.org.uk

The Guild was set up in 1987 to promote stone ground, wholemeal, oatmeal and other special flours to a wider public and continue the tradition of milling with stones.

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A directory: '**Stone Ground Flour by Natural Power – Where Can I Find It?**' gives information about where these products can be found. Listing mills from Cumbria to Kent and from Cornwall to Scotland, the booklet is currently available from the SPAB Mills Section and from participating mills.

Further details of National Mills Weekend, including potential interviewees, are available from Simon Hudson, SPAB Mills Section, 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY (0207 456 0909).

e-mail: press@nationalmillsweekend.co.uk or visit to the website: www.nationalmillsweekend.co.uk

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For more information contact Simon Hudson 020 7456 0909

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Notes to Editors

Mills in all parts of the country will be open over the weekend of May 10th and 11th 2008. To date confirmed participants are located in: Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Cornwall, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Devon, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Greater London, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northumbria, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Rutland, Shropshire, Somerset and Bristol, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Tyne & Wear, West Midlands, Wiltshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire.

- High-resolution images (300dpi) will be available showing many of the mills and millers taking part. Please acknowledge copyright
- SPAB is Britain's oldest conservation organisation founded by William Morris in 1877
- Britain's **oldest working windmill** is at Outwood in Surrey. **One of the oldest watermills** is at Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire **The tallest working windmill** in Britain is Maud Foster at Boston, Lincolnshire.
- This press release is also available on line at <http://www.spab.org.uk/html/media-centre/press-releases>
- and www.nationalmillsweekend.co.uk