

## What does the SPAB MILLS SECTION DO?

- Protects hundreds of traditional Windmills and Watermills every year from proposals to demolish or damage them.
- Campaigns for the sympathetic repair of mills, and works to return buildings and machinery to working order.
- Circulates its newsletter "Mill News" to members four times per year.
- Helps to find new owners for mills at risk by issuing a list of old mills which are for sale.
- Arranges a programme of lectures, meetings and visits to mills.
- Works to raise public awareness of the need to save and conserve the country's dwindling number of wind and watermills by generating press interest.
- Co-ordinates and publicises National Mills Weekend on the second weekend in May each year.
- Supports the work of traditional millwrights across the UK.
- Liaises with independent groups of international and UK Mollinologists.
- Encourages the survival of the traditional miller and his or her craft.
- Supports the care and development of our collections through the Mills Archive.



Cobham Watermill (C) Nick Hirst

## MANIFESTO

**The manifesto of the SPAB was written by William Morris and other founder members and issued in 1877. Although produced in response to the conservation problems of the 19th century, the manifesto extends protection to "all times and styles" and remains to this day the philosophical basis for the Society's work. Applicants for SPAB membership must sign to say that they agree with the manifesto's conservation principles.**

"A Society coming before the public with such a name as that above written must needs explain how, and why, it proposes to protect those ancient buildings which, to most people doubtless, seem to have so many and such excellent protectors. This, then, is the explanation we offer:

No doubt within the last fifty years a new interest, almost like another sense, has arisen in these ancient monuments of art; and they have become the subject of one of the most interesting of studies, and of an enthusiasm, religious, historical, artistic, which is one of the undoubted gains of our time; yet we think that if the present treatment of them be continued, our descendants will find them useless for study and chilling to enthusiasm. We think that those last fifty years of knowledge and attention have done more for their destruction than all the foregoing centuries of revolution, violence and contempt.

For Architecture, long decaying, died out, as a popular art at least, just as the knowledge of mediæval art was born. So that the civilised world of the nineteenth century has no style of its own amidst its wide knowledge of the styles of other centuries. From this lack and this gain arose in men's minds the strange idea of the Restoration of ancient buildings; and a strange and most fatal idea, which by its very name implies that it is possible to strip from a building this, that, and the other part of its history - of its life that is - and then to stay the hand at some arbitrary point, and leave it still historical, living, and even as it once was.

In early times this kind of forgery was impossible, because knowledge failed the builders, or perhaps because instinct held them back. If repairs were needed, if ambition or piety pricked on to change, that change was of necessity wrought in the unmistakable fashion of the time; a church of the eleventh century might be added to or altered in the twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, or even the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries; but every change, whatever history it destroyed, left history in the gap, and was alive with the spirit of the deeds done midst its fashioning. The result of all this was often a building in which the many changes, though harsh and visible enough, were, by their very contrast, interesting and instructive and could by no possibility mislead. But those who make the changes wrought in our day under the name of Restoration, while professing to bring back a building to the best time of its history, have no guide but each his own individual whim to point out to them what is admirable and what contemptible; while the very nature of their task compels them to destroy something and to supply the gap by imagining what the earlier builders should or might have done.

Moreover, in the course of this double process of destruction and addition, the whole surface of the building is necessarily tampered with; so that the appearance of antiquity is taken away from such old parts of the fabric as are left, and there is no laying to rest in the spectator the suspicion of what may have been lost; and in short, a feeble and lifeless forgery is the final result of all the wasted labour. It is sad to say, that in this manner most of the bigger Minsters, and a vast number of more humble buildings, both in England and on the Continent, have been dealt with by men of talent often, and worthy of better employment, but deaf to the claims of poetry and history in the highest sense of the words.

For what is left we plead before our architects themselves, before the official guardians of buildings, and before the public generally, and we pray them to remember how much is gone of the religion, thought and manners of time past, never by almost universal consent, to be Restored; and to consider whether it be possible to Restore those buildings, the living spirit of which, it cannot be too often repeated, was an inseparable part of that religion and thought, and those past manners. For our part we assure them fearlessly, that of all the Restorations yet undertaken, the worst have meant the reckless stripping a building of some of its most interesting material features, whilst the best have their exact analogy in the Restoration of an old picture, where the partly-perished work of the ancient craftsman has been made neat and smooth by the tricky hand of some unoriginal and thoughtless hack of today. If, for the rest, it be asked us to specify what kind of amount of art, style, or other interest in a building makes it worth protecting, we answer, anything which can be looked on as artistic, picturesque, historical, antique, or substantial: any work, in short, over which educated, artistic people would think it worth while to argue at all.

It is for all these buildings, therefore, of all times and styles, that we plead, and call upon those who have to deal with them, to put Protection in the place of Restoration, to stave off decay by daily care, to prop a perilous wall or mend a leaky roof by such means as are obviously meant for support or covering, and show no pretence of other art, and otherwise to resist all tampering with either the fabric or ornament of the building as it stands; if it has become inconvenient for its present use, to raise another building rather than alter or enlarge the old one; in fine to treat our ancient buildings as monuments of a bygone art, created by bygone manners, that modern art cannot meddle with without destroying.

Thus, and thus only, shall we escape the reproach of our learning being turned into a snare to us; thus, and thus only can we protect our ancient buildings, and hand them down instructive and venerable to those that come after us."

**The Mills Section of  
The Society for the Protection of Ancient  
Buildings**

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## If you care about our historic Windmills and Watermills

## JOIN TODAY



Stanton Windmill Suffolk (C) Bob Paterson

**The Mills Section of  
The Society for the Protection  
of Ancient Buildings**

# How to join

## The SPAB Mills Section

**Membership is open to all.** You can join the Mills Section, or its parent organisation, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (which has its own membership form), or both bodies (dual membership).

To join The SPAB Mills Section, please send this completed form and payment to  
**The SPAB, 37 SPITAL SQUARE,  
 FREEPOST LONI1475, London E1 6BR**  
 (though if you use a stamp it will save us money).  
 You can pay by cheque or postal order  
**(made payable to SPAB Mills Section)**  
 or by Direct Debit.  
 You can also help us to make the membership fee go further by completing a Gift Aid Declaration.

**We invite you to join part of the oldest national pressure group,** fighting to save old buildings from decay, demolition and unsympathetic repair. By joining the SPAB Mills Section, you are showing that you care about these wonderful buildings. Whether you have an interest in the architecture, technology, craft, history, or conservation techniques, your support is vital in taking the work of the Mills Section forward.

**Membership entitles you to participate** in the activities of the Section and attend our programme of meetings, lectures and visits. You will receive our newsletter *Mill News* four times a year, including lists of mills for sale, and the Annual Report, and be able to participate in other activities of the Section. By supporting us you are helping to protect our national heritage of old mills.

**We advise, educate, and campaign,** to preserve and to restore endangered wind and watermills. We have a firm set of principles about how mills should be preserved or repaired, as well as the practical knowledge and experience to put these principles into effect with the voluntary help of many of

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I agree with the principles of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings as set forth in the Manifesto and desire to be elected

Signature	Date
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Photocopied or faxed signatures are not valid on Application or Direct Debit

Full Name	
Address	
County	
Postcode	
Telephone No. (day)	
Email	

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP Please tick appropriate box

<input type="checkbox"/> Annual	<b>£27</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint (eg. Mr & Mrs)	<b>£37</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Dual (Main & Mills)	<b>£49</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior	<b>£14</b>

(16-21 or full-time

student)

Please give D.O.B. and details of study and completion date:-


<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	<b>£57</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Life	<b>£500</b>
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Please tell us where you heard about the SPAB Mills Section


### Gift Aid Declaration Mills Section

Title	Full Name
Address	
County	POSTCODE

I would like any donations I have made to the SPAB since 6 April 2000 or will make in future to be treated as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise. I confirm that I pay sufficient tax (income tax or capital gains tax) to equal the amount that the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings will reclaim in the tax year.

Date	Signature
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YOU HAVE MADE A GIFT AID DECLARATION TO THE MILLS SECTION OF THE SPAB. THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US IN THIS WAY.

- Payments from company accounts are not valid for Gift Aid.
- If you are a higher rate tax payer, we only reclaim tax at the basic rate. You will obtain further relief by including the subscriptions or donations on your tax return. Remember to keep a note of them!
- If your circumstances change and you no longer pay sufficient tax, you can cancel your declaration.
- You may cancel this declaration at any time by letting us know in writing. Please also notify us of any changes in your name or address whilst this declaration is in force.

*giftaid it*

### Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in whole form using a ballpoint pen and send it to: The Mills Section, SPAB, 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY



Name and full postal address of your Bank/Building Society

To: The Manager	Bank/Building Society
Address	
Postcode	

Originator's Identification Number

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Reference Number

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### Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay The Mills Section of the SPAB Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with The SPAB and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)
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Bank/Building Society account no.

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Branch sort code

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Date

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Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

### The Direct Debit Guarantee

This guarantee should be detached and retained by the Payer.

- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme.
- The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society.
- If the amount to be paid or the payment date changes The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.
- If an error is made by The SPAB or your Bank or Building Society you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.

