

## Newsletter Number 2 for May 2015



First of all, a thank you to those recipients of Newsletter Number 1 who emailed me with kind supportive comments. Additional thanks are due to the people who have made it their aim to meet me and offer gentle advice, discuss a date, offer a photograph or suggest a topic for future issues. Your support adds energy as Number 2 is prepared. Please keep sending email addresses of people who you feel would be interested in the topics we cover - the list has grown by about 25% since the release of Number 1. For the future there are plans to focus on Winchcombe area schools, surnames, the cinema, the police and maybe the stories of one or two people who have been key players in the life of Winchcombe. Each newsletter will give an introduction to the materials in the museum, it's then up to you to come along and examine the riches.

In this May newsletter the chosen topic is on the long established and important local employer, the paper mills at Postlip.

What do you think of when you read the word 'Dandy'? Perhaps a children's comic from the nineteen fifties or a fine perfumed and rakish Georgian gentleman. Then why does Winchcombe Museum have two Dandys and how are they linked to paper making at Postlip Mill?

### **A Brief History of Postlip Paper Mills**

Postlip Mill was first recorded as milling flour around 1066, using a large water wheel. The mill was mentioned in the will of William Mustoe in 1698. It appears that a John Durham began paper making at Postlip between 1719 and 1733. By the late 18th century three mills were in operation as Upper, Middle and Lower Mill.

By the nineteenth century blotting paper was a key product. [Ask the grand children if they have heard of blotting paper.] Water power served the mill until 1850 when steam engines were introduced.

1849: William Gates Adlard joined the mill and the family run business progressed successfully

1900: 'Postlip Mills' was established as a limited company with directors Messrs. Edward Adlard, JP., F Bird and C.T. Henney.

1918: filter paper became part of sales.

1930s: electricity was introduced to the mills.

1940s: the Biro pen was introduced by Laszlo Biro eliminating various blots and smudges! It has developed into the modern ballpoint pen.

1950s: production of paper based filter papers for the automotive industry increased.

1969: blotting paper sales reduced and production ceased.

The supply of cotton rags as the main source of raw material declined as more synthetic fibres were introduced.

During the twentieth and twenty first centuries the company continued to upgrade the power sources and production machinery for the factory. The use of glass fibres in filters increased.

Today the mill is operated by Hollingsworth & Vose, an American company with headquarters in East Walpole, Massachusetts. They began paper making in 1843 and today at Postlip make advanced paper products including automotive filter, flame retardant and glass fibre papers.

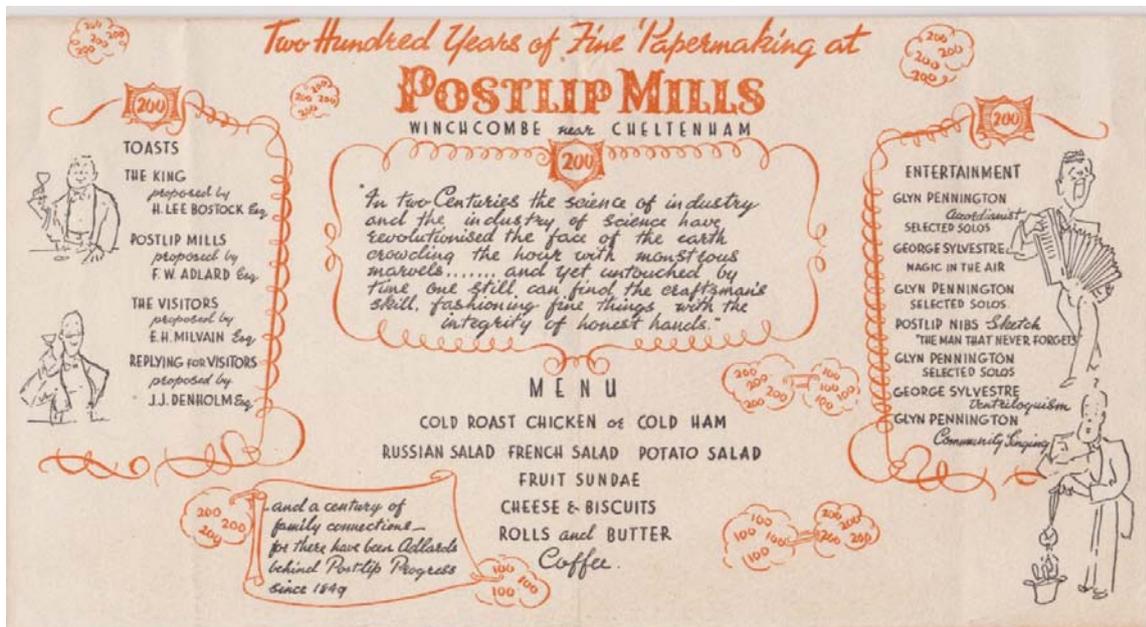
Images of three gems held in the museum:



Postlip Mill in the 1930s



Messrs Milvain (works manager), Tustin and Linholm examining paper quality



200 years of paper making celebratory event on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1949

The museum holds a stockbook from the paper mills from the period 1905-14. The ledger is leather bound with marbled end papers and beautiful handwriting. Here are a few items from this valuable ledger: *Horse Cloths - £1.12s.0d; 3 railway trucks - £67.0s.0d; 3 wagons (1 sprung) - £25, £20, £15; Watering can - 2 @ 1/-; Tallow candles 8lbs - 2/8d.*

So what about that question of a 'Dandy'? In the Museum there are two Dandys. The smaller older one was made by George Tovey who worked at Postlip Paper Mill. He made them in his workshop in Chandos Lane which was on the site of the current Roman Catholic Church. The Dandy is a frame or roll, placed near the end of the paper making process, which places a watermark in the paper. In the Museum we have 18 watermarks used by the Durhams, such as the Britannia watermark and also several used by the Lloyds, at Sudeley Mill. It is worth a visit to see the Dandys and the design of these watermarks. Hold up your next piece of writing paper and see if it has a watermark.

John Hancock

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