

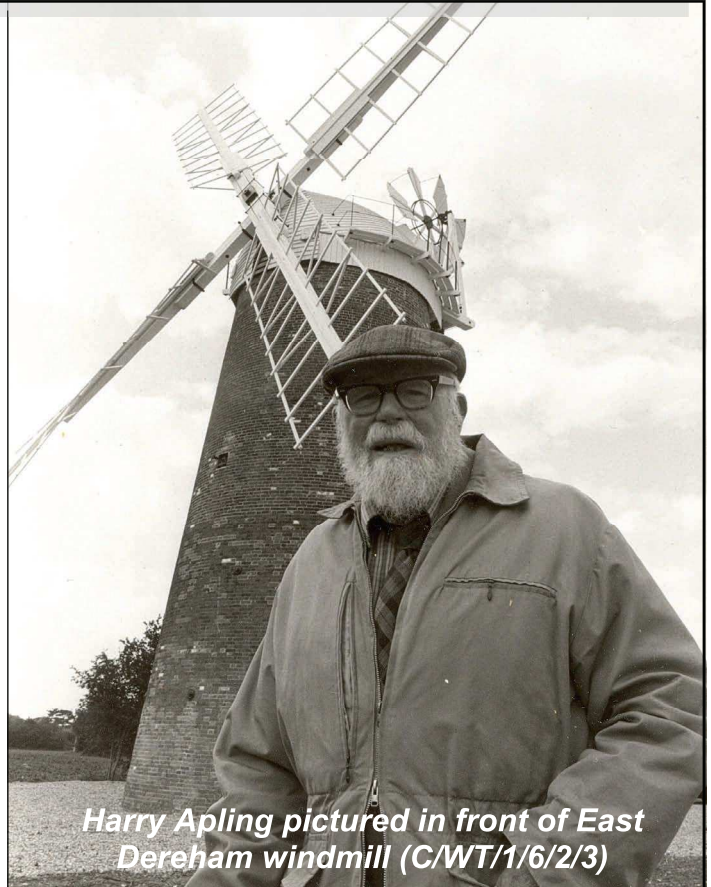
# THE NEWSLETTER

## Wonderful Windmills: The Harry Apling Collection

The recently catalogued Harry Apling collection (part of the records of the Norfolk Windmills Trust) is a treasure trove of information about the county's iconic windmills.

Harry Apling (1904-90) was a well-known local mills expert and the author of *Norfolk Corn Windmills*. Published in 1984, it remains the definitive reference work on the subject, containing the historical accounts, descriptions and period photographs of 124 windmills. Harry Apling intended his research to result in three volumes. However, only volume one (featuring windmills for which some remains still exist) was officially published; files containing the other parts (featuring mills which have completely disappeared or for which there remain only historical references) can be found in the Harry Apling collection.

Highlights of the collection include a photographic survey of the county's windmills, a comprehensive collection of mill-related newscuttings, sale particulars and research material, including booklets, leaflets and articles. Harry Apling's series of research notebooks document his meticulous gathering of information about millers, from trade directories, poll books, tithe maps and probate records. Detailed surveys are available for Wicklewood windmill and Little Cressingham wind and watermill, both of which were acquired and restored by the Norfolk Windmills Trust. The collection of research material includes information relating to fascinating stories such as the 'stealing the wind' case (Norfolk Lent Assizes, 1860) where the defendants had built a schoolhouse in the vicinity of the mill at Emneth, which 'stopped, diverted and obstructed the streams of air from coming to the mill and thereby injured the plaintiff.'



Harry Apling pictured in front of East Dereham windmill (C/WT/1/6/2/3)

Although the collection primarily concerns Norfolk mills, there is also a good deal of material relating to other English mills, especially those in East Anglia, and even some from further afield, such as Dutch *paltrokmolen*. The catalogue reference for the Harry Apling collection held at the Norfolk Record Office is C/WT/1. Some of the information from Harry Apling's main windmill catalogue can be accessed online via the 'Norfolk Mills' website: <<http://www.norfolk Mills.co.uk>>.

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