



REINVENTION

...new chapter, new build

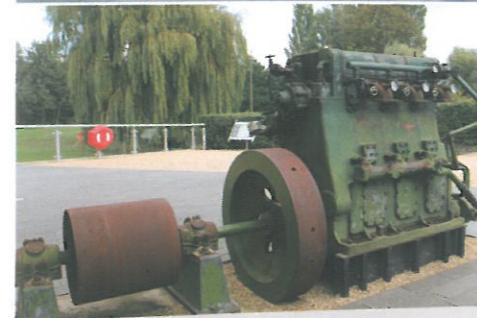
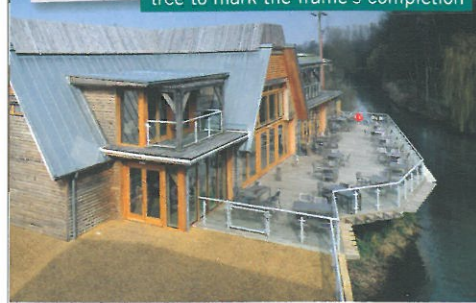
With the decision made to change the role of Holme Mills to that of a Heritage Centre, another page had turned in the story of the old Mill. In 2009 Bill and David set up the Jordan Trust in order to preserve the old mill and its surroundings, and a plan was drawn up to deliver the new vision of 'keeping our food heritage alive'.

Central to demonstrating how the water driven mill used its Victorian machinery to make wholegrain flours was a method of getting visitors around the mill whilst still working.

Also important was the commissioning of a Mill Garden where we could show *in an original way*, the growing of cereals, fruits and vegetables, and tell the story of wildlife friendly food production and the tradition of market gardening in East Bedfordshire.



Pamela Jordan 'topping out' the Heritage Centre with an evergreen tree to mark the frame's completion



To complete the picture we required a Mill Barn for education and a café building, where visitors could sample delicious food made from locally grown ingredients and enjoy the atmosphere at this attractive riverside setting.

We first appointed architects, Roderick James Associates, who had many years' experience in sustainable and alternative technology, particularly, oak framed buildings.

The resulting structure, the *Riverside Café*, is a traditional green oak frame built using over 500 beams (*thats over 70 tonnes of wood and nearly 50 trees*) and 2000 wooden pegs. Each flitch beam, measuring 11 metres and weighing in at 2 tonnes each, had to be lifted in with a 100 ton crane.

Interpretation experts, Workhaus, were tasked with creating exhibit materials that would explain the principles of roller milling and provide a virtual as well as real, depiction of how to convert wheat to flour. Visitors can now see the working mill through a 2.4 metre wide, floor to ceiling window, and watch a nine minute film which explains the milling process.

Garden designers, Toll and Kitson, had the difficult job of building the Mill Garden in a wildlife friendly way, on land reclaimed after many years of industrial use. Their innovative plans to show the growing of cereals, fruit and vegetables, that would have been part of the old local market gardening industry, have worked well and inspired many visiting gardeners.

